

skin diver

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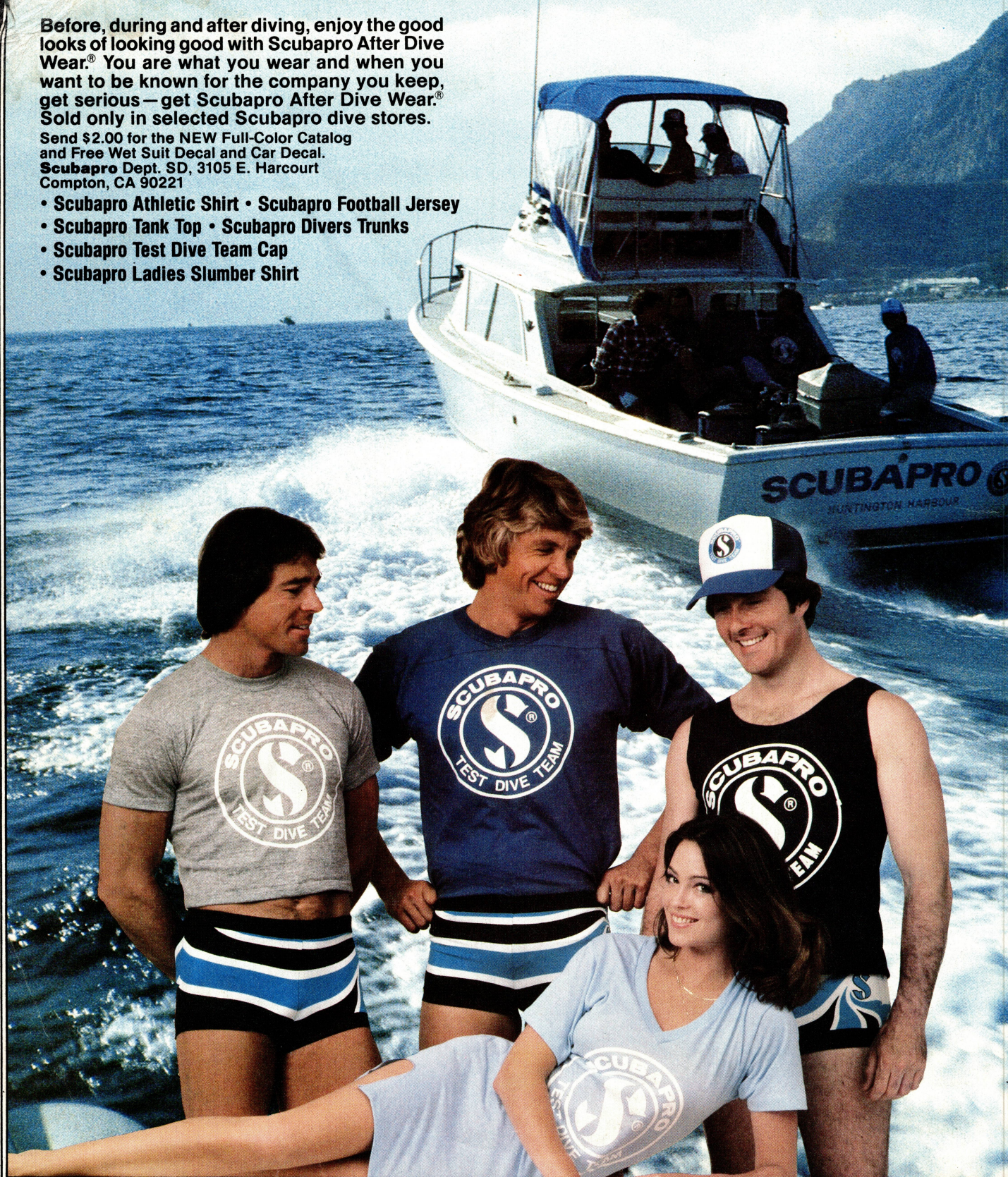
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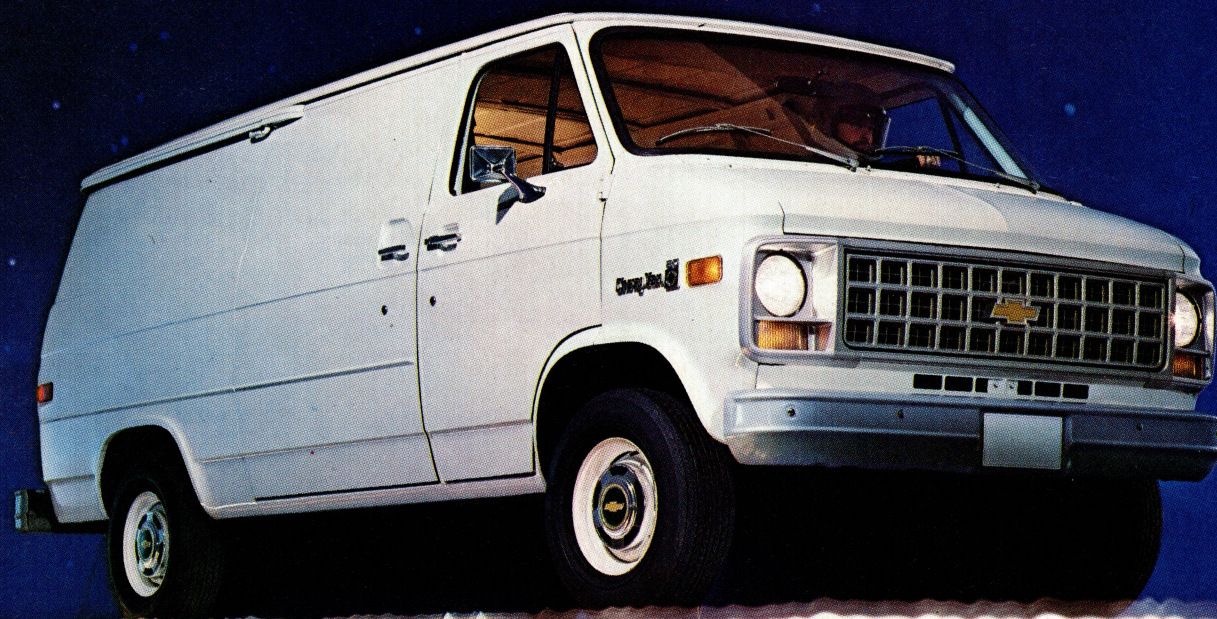
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TOUGH VAN FEATURES. Chevy Van has a unitized body and Massive Girder Beam front suspension. Plus new anti-corrosion treatments, new interior and new optional Electronic Spark Control 5.0 Liter V8 (not avail. in Calif.).

See the 1981 Chevy Van at your Chevy dealer's now. Ask about leasing, too. Times like these, why just drive a van when you can be operating a space shuttle?



**BUILT TOUGH.
BUILT FOR ECONOMY.**

skin diver

Volume Thirty Number Nine

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COVER

Divemaster Colin Tozer drives his DPV over a lovely reef in the Bahamas. Join publisher Paul Tzimoulis on a tour of the best dive spots in this fabulous area. Photograph by Geri Murphy.



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SDM Editorial

BY THE PUBLISHER



BEYOND THE BASIC SCUBA COURSE

The basic scuba course was never meant to be an end-all to diver training. It was originally intended to be a fast and simple way for a person to learn how to handle scuba gear safely, and survive underwater. All most people want to do is learn the *basics* and try it before investing huge sums of money in scuba equipment, wetsuits and more complete training. The "try it before you buy it" philosophy is the reason for the basic course.

The dive industry is now taking a second look at scuba training here in the U.S. and the analysis of the situation reveals a frightening picture. The dropout rate among new scuba students is possibly higher than ever in the history of diving. An estimated 85 to 90 percent of the people who enter diving leave within a year to 18 months. A recent magazine study reveals that only 37 percent of basic scuba class graduates ever enroll in advanced diver training programs. It is now suspected that there is a strong link between the dropout problem and the lack of advanced diver training.

Why don't people enroll in advanced diver training classes? There are three basic reasons which contribute to this trend: 1) Too many students are oversold on the basic course at the time of enrollment or during class. They don't realize what they are missing in advanced training because they have never been told about the merits of such programs. 2) Many people cannot find an advanced diver training course in which to enroll. Instructors are so busy conducting basic scuba classes they don't have time to organize advanced classes. 3) Many

people have a distorted impression of what advanced diver training represents. They found the basic course to be physically abusive and academically boring — and suspect the advanced course is more of the same, or worse.

Contrary to popular misconception, advanced diver training is not a scuba course for supermen. Students are not required to do daily calisthenics, nor do they train by rappelling down the side of a sea cliff. Advanced diver training is not a course in which students are taught how to repair regulators or weld underwater; there is no instruction in underwater demolition, bridge inspection or underwater pipeline trenching. Advanced diver training has no military or commercial diver overtones whatsoever — it is simply continuation training for effective and enjoyable *sport diving*.

In the basic scuba class, there was little time for fun as you struggled to master the basic underwater skills and gear handling. Things are much different in the advanced diver courses for you now begin to learn how to put these newfound skills to use and what to do with yourself in the open-water environment. For the first time, you can begin to enjoy diving and start to have fun.

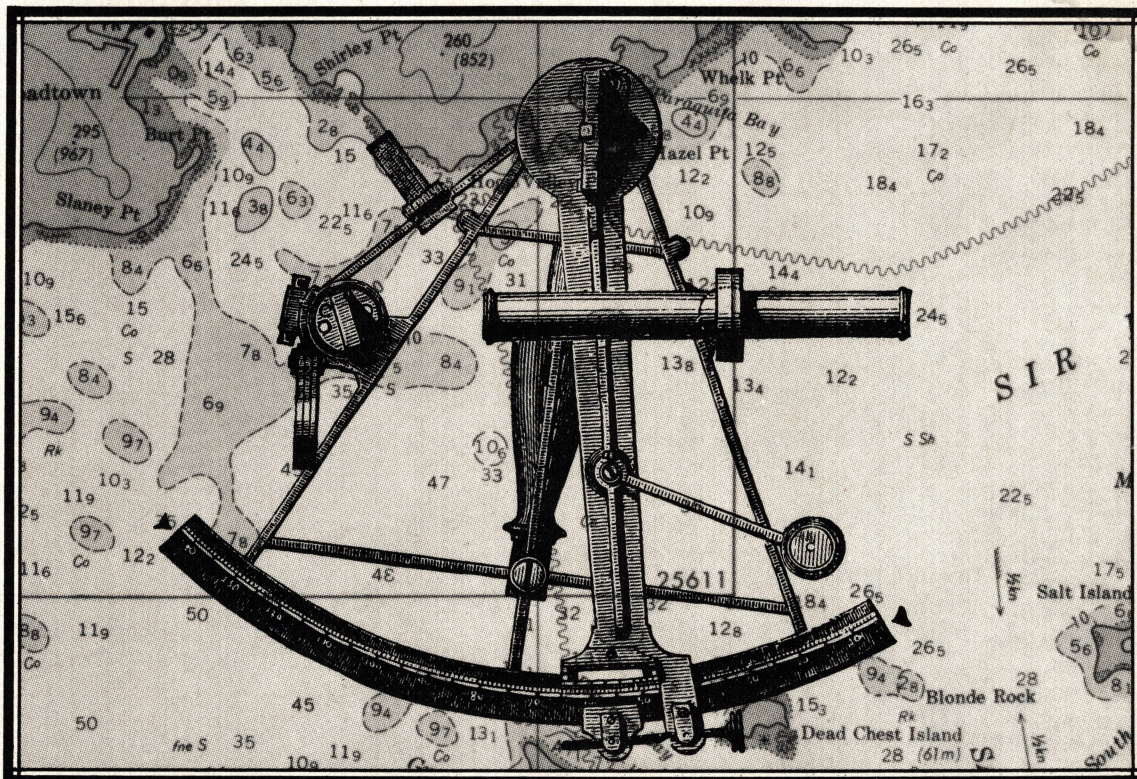
Advanced diver training courses have been developed by every instructor association which offers basic training. While the course descriptions and certification titles may vary from association to association, advanced diver training breaks down into three different categories: 1) Open-water training and certification that is often a direct in-line extension of the basic course. In other

words, a person learns much of the basics in the classroom and pool sessions with a minimum number of open-water training sessions at the end of the basic class. From there, he/she immediately enrolls in additional open-water training sessions which allow him/her to qualify for open-water certification. 2) Advanced diver training involves more than just open-water diving sessions. There are classroom lectures on advanced diving theory, perhaps special assignments, underwater projects and a final exam. Advanced diver training is really the top-of-the-line in diver education, and a graduate from this type of course really knows his stuff. Such a diver is now fully prepared to handle any dive situation with confidence and often excels in leadership. 3) Specialty courses really are the fun part of advanced diver training. These are generally short courses involving 12 to 24 hours of classroom lecture and two to four open-water dives. Such a course is devoted to one specific interest, such as: wreck diving, underwater photography, underwater hunting and collecting, cavern diving, or a half-dozen other undersea activities. This is where you learn exactly what to do underwater and how to accomplish it successfully.

With all of this programming available, it would seem that people would be flocking to these advanced courses by the thousands.

For those people who are really serious about scuba, advanced diver training is the natural path to success and enjoyment. There is no better way of becoming a real pro in the diving game. 🐠

Chart your course for future success



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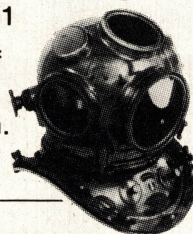
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MAINZ, GERMANY
August 16-23

SIDNEY, B.C., CANADA
August 22-29

SUDBURY, ONTARIO, CANADA
August 29-September 6

ATLANTA, GA
September Weekends

MOUNTAIN HOME, AK
September 5-12

ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA
September 12-20

COZUMEL, MEXICO
September 19-27

BOURNE, BRAINTREE, MA
September 19-20, 26-27, and
October 3-4, 10-11

ELMIRA (FINGER LAKES), NY
September 19-26

JACKSONVILLE, FL
September 19-October 11
(Weekends)

STELLA MARIS, BAHAMAS
September 19-26

SORRENTO, ITALY
September 25, October 3

BOLOGNA, ITALY
October 4-11

COLUMBUS, OH
October 10-17

ANDERSON, SC
October 17-November 8
(Weekends)

OKINAWA, JAPAN
October 22-31

KURUMBA VILLAGE
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES
October 28-November 14

HOLLYWOOD, FL
November 6-15

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March and April Weekends, 1982

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SAN MARCOS, TX
May 15-22, 1982

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May 15-22, 1982

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Incoming Tide

Epoxy Coated Tanks

The May, 1981 issue of *SKIN DIVER* included an article by Tedd Davison entitled, *How to Salvage Interior Epoxy Coated Steel Scuba Tanks*. The following correspondence between the author and an informed reader will clarify some questions raised.

EDITOR

... We are an independent inspection agency authorized by the U.S. Department of Transportation to perform on-site inspections of hydrostatic retest facilities. As such, I read with interest your article on the salvage of steel scuba cylinders. Since this is an area of concern repeatedly surfacing during our discussions with retest facility personnel, it is pleasing to note that someone has discovered an effective means to salvage.

We would only like to insert a word of caution with respect to a few aspects of your salvage process:

1. Toxicity levels of the stripping/cleaning agents should be verified as necessary to preclude any harmful reaction.
2. It should be stressed that cleaning by this process is *Only Applicable To Steel Cylinders*.

3. Step 5 and 6 should be reversed to avoid the risk of significant wall thickness loss without detection in hydrostatic test.

With the inclusion of these areas of concern, we would appreciate using your procedure in copy form to be given to retest facilities as an alternative to condemnation of a possibly good cylinder.

REX E. GREER
PRESIDENT
AUTHORIZED TESTING, INC.
RIVERSIDE, CA

... In direct response to the questions you raised:

1. The cold solvent paint stripper is neutralized by the detergent and baking soda, and therefore, should not present any toxic emergencies.

2. I do agree this is only for steel cylinders.

3. Since conventional tumbling methods differ from shop to shop, I'm sure that your recommendation has merit.

Please feel free to pass any or all of the published information to your retest facilities. I truly believe that many of these cylinders can be successfully salvaged.

TEDD DAVISON
PLANT MANAGER
INDUSTRIAL PLATING, INC.
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

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FIRST PRIZES: 5 CRAIG® Road-Rated Car Stereos.

SECOND PRIZES: 10 CRAIG® Soundalong Portable Stereo Cassette Players.

THIRD PRIZES: 1000 Cassettes of The Marshall Tucker Band's latest release, "Dedicated."



OFFICIAL RULES

1. On an official entry form, or on a 3" x 5" piece of paper, print your name, address and zip code. Then answer the 2 Ronrico Rum questions with information found on the front and back labels of any bottle of Ronrico White or Gold Rum. If you don't own a bottle, visit your favorite restaurant or tavern or go to any participating liquor store and look for the Ronrico display. A facsimile of Ronrico Labels may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to P.O. Box 82010, St. Paul, Minnesota 55182. No purchase required.

2. Enter as often as you wish, but each entry must be properly completed, addressed and mailed in a separate envelope and received by December 31, 1981 to be eligible. Prize winners will be determined in a witnessed random drawing of entries by Siebel/Mohr, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final.

3. The Grand Prize winner will receive a 1982 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am with T-roof, air-conditioning and a top of the line Craig Road-Rated Component Stereo System, with graphic equalizer, amplifier and Road-Rated speakers. (Car shown is a 1981 Pontiac Trans Am.) The five first prize winners will each receive a Craig Road-Rated Car Stereo. The ten second prize winners will each receive a Craig Soundalong Portable Stereo Cassette Player. The 1000 third prize winners will

each receive a cassette of The Marshall Tucker Band's latest release, "Dedicated." Prizes are non-transferable and non-redeemable.

4. Only one prize per family or household. The odds of winning will be determined by the number of entries received. All prizes will be awarded.

5. Trans Am winner agrees to assume responsibility for any additional optional equipment as defined by General Motors, as well as local, state and federal taxes, city and state licensing and registration fees. Trans Am will be made available for pickup as near as possible to grand prize winner's home address. Sweepstakes open to residents of the continental U.S.A., Alaska and Hawaii. Employees and their families of General Wine & Spirits Co., its affiliated and subsidiary companies, liquor wholesalers and retailers, their advertising agencies and judging organizations are not eligible. Sweepstakes void where prohibited or restricted by law. All federal, state and local laws apply.

6. Entrants must be of legal drinking age under the laws of their home state.

7. A list of major prize winners may be acquired at the conclusion of the sweepstakes by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to "Ronrico Rum Marshall Tucker Band" Winners List, P.O. Box 82029, St. Paul, MN 55182.

80 PROOF, GENERAL WINE & SPIRITS CO., N.Y.C.

Mail to: Ronrico Rum
"Marshall Tucker Band" Sweepstakes
P.O. Box 82025
St. Paul, Minnesota 55182

I have read the contest rules and would like to enter the Ronrico Rum "Marshall Tucker Band" Sweepstakes. My answers are checked below. (Correct answers appear on front and/or back labels for Ronrico White or Gold.)

1. Ronrico Rum is produced and bottled in _____ Jamaica
_____ Florida _____ Puerto Rico

2. How many hearts appear in the upper right hand corner of the coat of arms on the Ronrico Rum Label?

I certify that I am of legal drinking age under the laws of my home state.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited or restricted by law.



INCOMING TIDE

Diver's Insurance

I recently went through the exercises of obtaining additional life insurance coverage. I was asked on a general questionnaire if I was a scuba diver, to which I replied, yes. I then received a special scuba questionnaire which I filled out and was told I would be surcharged \$5 per every \$1000 coverage because my dives exceeded the 40 foot limit. My agent has contacted three additional general carriers and all have surcharges of approximately the same rate.

I do not know what statistics they are relying on to indicate scuba diving is such a hazardous sport. If your publication can be of any help as far as obtaining names of insurance carriers who have not branded diving a dangerous sport, or relay information that perhaps would change the hazardous ratings, I would certainly appreciate it.

PAUL R. EYERLY III
BLOOMSBURG, PA

SDM has received several letters on this subject and the writers were referred to John McAniff of the NUADC for helpful information.
EDITOR

Many thanks for referring me to John McAniff. The statistics on U.S. diving

fatalities he has gathered and published at the National Underwater Accident Data Center helped our underwriter place David and Anne Doubilet in the most favored risk classification for Life Underwriting purposes.

Because David and Anne do work over 100 feet deep, they would not have qualified for the best insurance rates by traditional standards of underwriting. Two things helped convince the underwriter to make a fresh evaluation of the risk involved for scuba diving: John's statistics and Anne and David's professional training and safety practices. This conclusion reinforces what the most accomplished divers already know about using safe diving practices and thorough training.

MICHAEL NIXON
NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL LIFE
MILWAUKEE, WI

Custom Tanks

In March, 1981 SKIN DIVER included information on custom painted tanks in New Gear. Owing to the recent controversy over tank painting processes, we asked the company for information on its product.

EDITOR

I am glad to hear that you have had some inquiries regarding Kustom Tanks, and I am more than happy to explain our customizing process to you.

We use new tanks which are coated

with a special sealer to prevent the aluminum from acidifying. The tanks are then hand painted with a special paint designed specifically for durability. The designs are painted onto the tanks with an air brush and then sealed with a clear coat of the same durable paint used for the base coat. To assure a hard durable finish, the tanks are air dried for approximately two weeks before packing and shipping.

JUDY POLTERA
PRESIDENT
KUSTOM TANKS
HUTCHINSON, KS

Single Divers

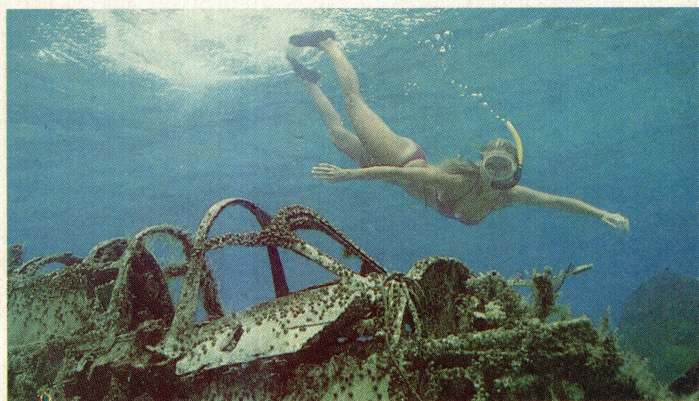
I am writing to explain what we feel is a unique dive organization, in hopes that you will sense the excitement we feel and, in turn, help us spread the word.

This past August we started a group in the Detroit area. Members of this group have two basics in common: We all share an interest in scuba diving and we are all single.

Our group was founded with the following in mind: 1. The high priority of recreational activity in the life of singles. 2. The natural hesitation of people to become involved in something new by themselves. 3. An assumed significant number of certified single divers who, for one reason or another, have drifted away from diving.

With this in mind, we adopted the name

WAR & PEACE.

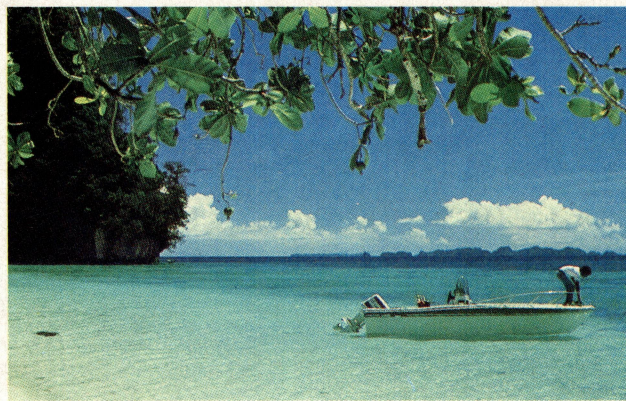


Under the placid surface of Truk lagoon lie miles of wreckage from World War II. Warships, planes and torpedoes. All are now silent and coral-encrusted.

These contrasts make a diving vacation in the Truk atoll unforgettable. Here's just a sample of our exciting tour packages. **TRUK LAGOON DIVING SAFARI.** 9 days/\$850* Stay at the Truk Continental and enjoy nine days of boat diving. Two dives each day plus a guide to show you around the sunken Imperial fleet. (Sea Safari) **PALAU, TRUK LAGOON.** 15 days/\$995* Accommodations at Continental hotels and nine days diving. See gorgonia and giant tridacna clams on Palau and explore the wrecks and relics of Truk Lagoon. (Poseidon Ventures)

TRUK, PONAPE. 16 days/\$1650* Stay at the Truk Continental and Pona Village. Plus one night in Honolulu. Spend nine days underwater sightseeing on two exotic Micronesian islands. (Sea & See Travel)

*Prices are per person double occupancy. Airfare not included. Subject to change without notice.



For complete details on diving in Micronesia, call your travel agent, dive shop or Continental. Or send in the coupon for our free color brochure.

Continental/Air Micronesia, P.O. Box 18918, Irvine, CA 92713.
Send me your Micronesia '81 brochure. I'm ready to dive into a good book. SK-9

Name _____

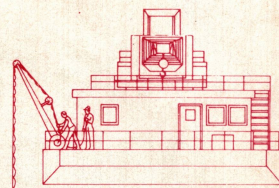
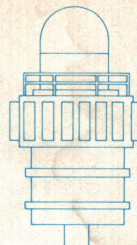
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My Travel Agent _____

CONTINENTAL
AIR MICRONESIA

CDC IS A LOT DEEPER THAN A DIVING SCHOOL:



C.D.C. is an integral part of one of the world's largest diving contractors... Oceaneering International, Inc., which is C.D.C.'s parent company and which has three out of five of the major deep water contracts, and the majority of the largest underwater exploration, construction, and maintenance projects. O.I. is heavily involved in over one-third of the world's drilling rigs.

The fact is:

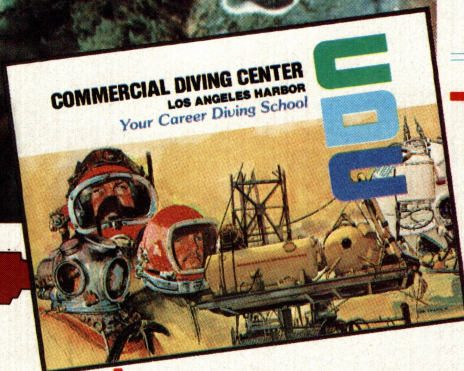
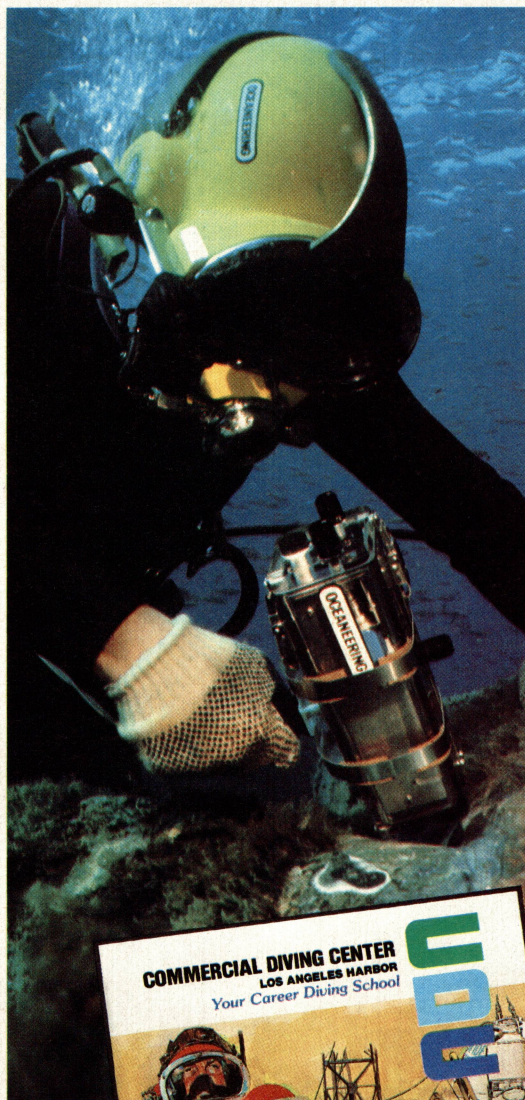
Oceaneering International designed Commercial Diving Center's training programs, moving over 40% of the graduates into key jobs under world-wide diving contracts. The others may opt to work for some 200 diving contractors who look upon C.D.C. as a producer of high-quality trainees ready to take on any job with any type of equipment.

The reason is:

C.D.C. graduates are sought after as skilled specialists with a hands-on knowledge of the most up-to-date procedures and equipment. C.D.C. training programs are designed and constantly updated by O.I. At C.D.C. students will train on equipment they will actually use on the job in the off-shore oil diving operations.

Being best means being first:

O.I. and C.D.C. have continually pioneered the commercial diving industry. In solving specialized problems, our creative staff developed; the first underwater diving bells, the first underwater hot tap, the first underwater commercial submarine lockout dives, the first 600-foot, non-saturation dives, and the first 1,000-foot diving service, plus dozens of firsts in lesser known related processes. Most recently, two C.D.C. graduates employed by O.I. successfully performed the world's record dive to a depth of 2,250 feet, surpassing O.I.'s depth record of 1980.



A revolution in technology:

Constant improvement in techniques and equipment increase a diver's ability to work at greater depths safely, efficiently and effectively. To accomplish this objective, our Research and Development staff has developed deep water systems which have revolutionized the diving industry. Among these are:

ARMS — Atmospheric Roving Manipulator System

JIM — A one-atmosphere armored diving suit for deep water work

WASP — For mid-water tasks

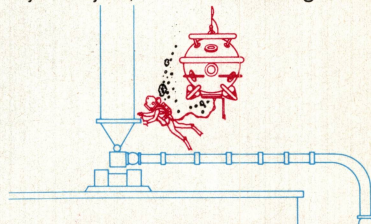
ORCA — A manned submersible

Maintaining our reputation:

To stay on top of the subsea contract market, O.I. must have the best training program available at C.D.C. O.I. is able to respond faster, complete jobs quicker and at less cost than other diving contractors because its divers, welders and technicians have superior training. To be the best, you have to train the best. And the only way to stay the best is to constantly get better.

Your role:

Your scuba certification is just the beginning of a top career in the rewarding field of commercial diving. With Oceaneering and Commercial Diving Center, you can achieve the best of that world. Send for our big, comprehensive literature package. Compare us with others, what it will cost against what you will get. We're eager for you to make this comparison. In evaluating the differences, you'll quickly see that C.D.C. offers you not just a job, but a rewarding career.



Member: Association of Commercial Diving Educators

Commercial Diving Center

Los Angeles Harbor

272 S. Fries Avenue, Wilmington, CA 90744
Telephone: (213) 834-2501

C.D.C. is the only Diver Training Division of OCEANEERING INTERNATIONAL, INC., with companies in over 17 foreign countries.

C.D.C. is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of NATTS. VA, State and Federal loans and grants available.

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Heuer watch in 1860, we've had a reputation for precision and reliability. That may be why Heuer has so often been chosen official timekeeper at the Olympic games (we were in Lake Placid, 1980). That's probably also why Heuer is the world leader in stopwatches.

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Suggested retail price \$345 for lady's "Black Coral" Ref. 980.025 and men's "Black Coral" Ref. 980.026.

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INCOMING TIDE

The Buddy System, and put the word out. At this point, we are 32 strong and continue to grow. We have sponsored various outings around our home area, taken a dive trip to Canada's Stokes Bay, and have directed new divers to beginner classes. Our general, working objective is simply to, on a non-profit basis, bring single scuba divers together and to encourage more singles to become involved in recreational diving.

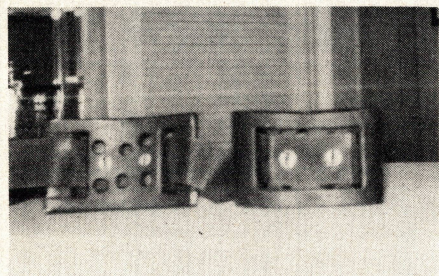
To meet this goal we plan to: 1. Actively promote diving among singles. 2. Sponsor dive trips. 3. Sponsor regional diving get togethers. 4. Keep single divers apprised of club activities through regular newsletters. 5. Encourage and sponsor off season activities . . .

We are anxious to hear from any and all singles who share our love for scuba diving. We can be reached at the following address: The Buddy System, P.O. Box 362, Madison Heights, Michigan 48071; (313) 541-0833.

MICHAEL BOYLE
ROYAL OAK, MI

Sliding Weights

For divers troubled by their weights slipping on their weightbelts, a reader offers the following suggestion. (The proc-



ess is begun by drilling a hole through each weight and the corresponding location on the belt.)

EDITOR

. . . I use two brass washers and two aluminum one-quarter inch binders that screw inside (nuts and bolts could be used as easily). The weights don't slide, my belt isn't twisted and worn, and I use my BC (rarely) for buoyancy adjustments.

I melt the thread around the holes in the belt before inserting the binders or bolts to keep it from unraveling. Smaller weights require only one fastener . . .

JOE JACOBS
ATLANTA, GA

Reverse Rip-off

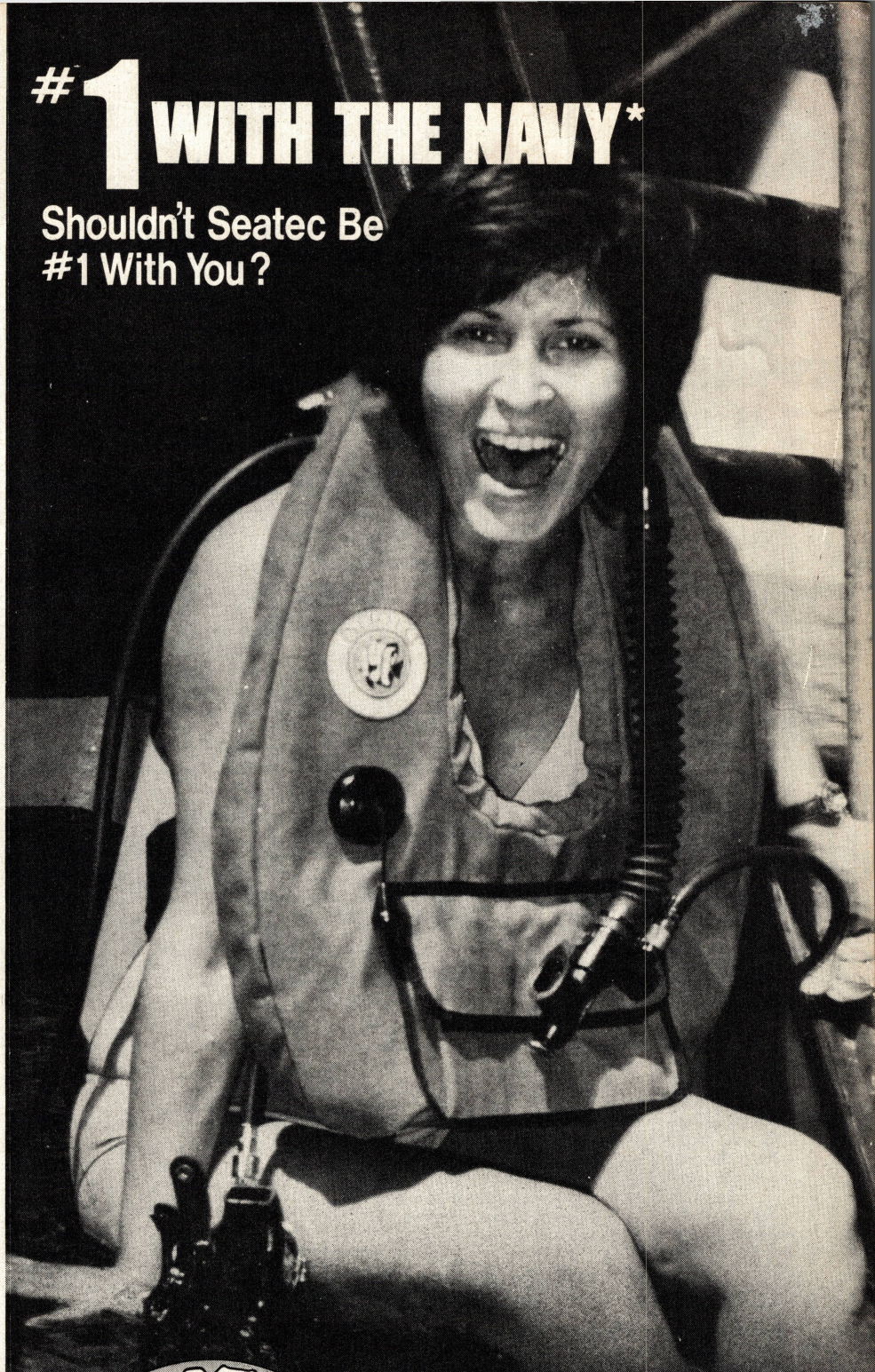
This letter is in response to your SKIN DIVER Magazine Editorial — Dive Travel Rip-Offs — featured in your December 1980 issue.

How right you are to point your finger at one man shows — scuba gypsies — and

(Continued on Page 16)

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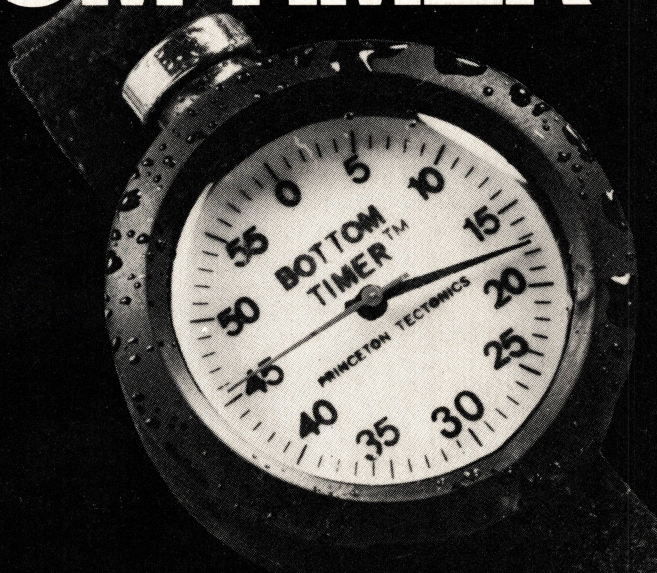
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- Chrome plated brass winding stem.



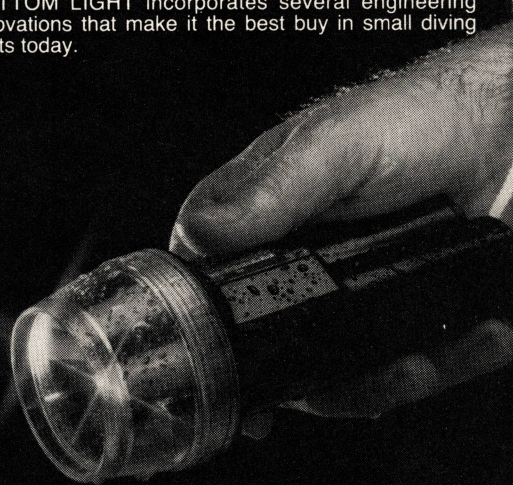
NEW PRINCETON TECTONICS WATCHES

The new PRINCETON TECTONICS watches have been designed with an eye to use, reliability and looks. Pictured here is the TEC 660 & 660W which share the following features with all the new Princeton Tectonics watches: Scratch resistant mineral crystal/ Quartz movement/ One-way ratchet-bezel with locking stops / Recessed screw-down crown / Five/year limited warranty/ Stainless steel bracelet/ Water resistant to tested depths (TEC 660's are tested for 660 ft. - other models vary). Finally, all PRINCETON TECTONICS watches will be repaired and serviced at our own plant - assuring prompt and meticulous technical back-up.



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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

Scuba Quiz

Category: Wetsuits

By Dennis Graver

Wetsuits have been used by divers for over 20 years and are the most popular means of protection against exposure in the water. An understanding of dive equipment, including wetsuits, leads to increased diving enjoyment. Find out what you know about wetsuits by answering the following questions. The answers are on the next page.

NOTE: Select all correct answers: Several questions have more than one correct response.

1. The warmth retained by a wetsuit is dependent upon:

- ☐ A. Bubbles in the material
- ☐ B. The number of zippers
- ☐ C. The material thickness
- ☐ D. The depth of the dive
- ☐ E. Proper fit

2. Select the true statement(s) regarding the properties of a wetsuit:

- ☐ A. The thin layer of warm water inside the suit warms the diver
- ☐ B. Body heat is lost to the water in the suit, but contained within the suit by insulation from the surrounding water
- ☐ C. The thickness of the suit insulates the diver from the surrounding water and the water in the suit is not a factor
- ☐ D. Body heat is reflected back into the diver from the interior of the suit while ambient heat is absorbed by the exterior of the suit

3. It is most important to insulate the torso and abdomen of the body. When this has been accomplished, which of the following is of next greatest importance:

- ☐ A. Arms
- ☐ B. Hands and feet
- ☐ C. Head
- ☐ D. Face
- ☐ E. Arms and hands

4. Arrange the answers regarding wetsuit configurations into the order that ranges from least protection to the most protection from heat loss:

- ☐ A. 1/4" farmer john pants with 1/4" jacket and cold water hood
- ☐ B. 1/4" farmer john pants with 1/4" hooded jacket
- ☐ C. 1/4" farmer john pants with 1/8" hooded vest, 1/4" jacket and 3/16" standard hood
- ☐ D. 1/4" high-waisted pants with 1/4" jacket and standard hood

5. A wetsuit should be fitted:

- ☐ A. Loosely except at the neck, wrists, and ankles
- ☐ B. Snugly except at the neck, wrists, and ankles
- ☐ C. Snugly except at the neck
- ☐ D. Any way as long as it is comfortable

6. The buoyancy of a wetsuit:

- ☐ A. Is compensated by a weightbelt
- ☐ B. Varies with the depth of the dive
- ☐ C. Varies with the thickness of the suit
- ☐ D. Is negligible
- ☐ E. Varies with age and use of the suit

7. A torn wetsuit:

- ☐ A. Does not affect warmth capability
- ☐ B. Will still keep a diver partially warm
- ☐ C. Results in a significant decrease in buoyancy
- ☐ D. Makes buoyancy control difficult
- ☐ E. Should be discarded

8. Compression of a wetsuit:

- ☐ A. Increases with depth
- ☐ B. Affects strap tension on accessories
- ☐ C. Affects drysuits only
- ☐ D. Is a myth
- ☐ E. Results in decreased buoyancy

9. Which of the following difficulties can result from using a wetsuit:

- ☐ A. Heat exhaustion
- ☐ B. Heat stroke
- ☐ C. Hypothermia
- ☐ D. Hypoglycemia
- ☐ E. Carotid sinus reflex

10. A wetsuit should be:

- ☐ A. Kept outside in sunlight
- ☐ B. Stored in a cool, dry place
- ☐ C. Folded and packed in a gear bag
- ☐ D. Stored while still wet
- ☐ E. Rinsed in warm salt water

Scuba Quiz

Answers: Wetsuits

1. All answers are correct. The formation and strength of the closed cellular structure of a suit affects its insulating qualities. Zippers permit water exchange and insulate poorly. A proper fit is essential to the conservation of body heat. Thicker material provides greater insulation than thin material. The thickness of a wetsuit is also affected by depth (pressure).

2. B. Body heat is lost to the water in the suit, but contained within the suit by insulation from the surrounding water. Cold is merely a lack of heat. We become chilled when water absorbs body heat. The water within a suit absorbs heat and will continue to do so if replaced by cold water from outside the suit. Even the warm water trapped within a suit takes heat by conduction. The object is to keep water exchange to a minimum and to insulate against heat loss by conduction. The suit material reduces heat loss by insulating the diver and the water warmed within the suit, by means of closed cells containing inert gas.

3. C. Head. Blood is shunted from body extremities to reduce heat loss — except for the head. The brain must receive constant blood flow, but the head is poorly insulated. In cold water, as much as half of the body's heat loss can take place through the head. Insulation of the head is very important when protecting the body against heat loss.

4. D, A, B, C. With the premise in mind that the head and torso are most important to insulate, you can see that increasing the thickness of the insulating material in these areas provides the greatest protection against heat loss. Reducing water circulation through proper fit, the minimum number of zippers, and overlapping layers of insulation are just as important as the thickness of the insulation.

5. C. Snugly except at the neck. Pressure on the carotid sinus located in the neck results in a slowing of the heart rate. When body oxygen demands increase due to exertion and cold, the slowed heart rate may not provide sufficient oxygen to the brain and unconsciousness can result. The ideal wetsuit would fit exactly, not being tight, but allowing no space for water to flow freely within it.

6. A, B, C, and E. Positive buoyancy results when an object displaces an amount of water weighing more than the object itself. As the volume of the object decreases, so does its buoyancy. Wetsuits are buoyant and thick wetsuits are more buoyant than thin ones. Wetsuit material is compressed by pressure at depth, resulting in less buoyancy. An old, well-used wetsuit has less buoyancy than a new one because the closed cells in the neoprene rupture or collapse with use and age.

7. B. Will still keep a diver partially warm. Of course, the degree to which protection would be provided is dependent upon the location and extent of the tear, but an advantage of a wetsuit is that a leak isn't critical. The buoyancy of the suit is unaffected by the tear, which can be repaired easily with readily available cement.

8. A, B, and E. As pressure increases on the closed cellular structure of neoprene, its volume is decreased. This results in reduced insulation, extremity circumference, and buoyancy. Proper weighting at the surface and buoyancy compensation at depth are important when diving with a wetsuit. Straps with elasticity for gauges and accessories are helpful in offsetting the effects of suit compression.

9. A, B, C, and E. A wetsuit insulates the body against excessive heat loss. On a hot day out of the water, a suit may prevent adequate cooling of the body and heat exhaustion or even heat stroke can occur. Avoid overheating in a wetsuit. Frequent dips into the water are recommended during pre-dive delays. Hypothermia (severe loss of body heat) is possible when the protection provided by the suit is insufficient. See answer number five regarding carotid sinus reflex.

10. B. Stored in a cool, dry place. Extended exposure to sunlight is not recommended for wetsuits. Suits folded for long periods of time develop creases due to cellular collapse. These creases weaken the material and provide less insulation. Unless a suit is dried thoroughly before storing, mildew can develop. Always rinse wetsuits in clean, fresh water, and give special attention to any zippers.

A good diver realizes the value of a wetsuit in nearly all waters. The knowledgeable diver also knows how to select, use and maintain a wetsuit to obtain the best possible service from it. Suit design, materials, and construction have improved in recent years. Retailers and instructors can help you decide which suit is best for your needs.

NEW LUV DIESEL HAS IT ALL

Terrific news. There's a new LUV. It's a diesel, and it's available in all LUV models. 2- and 4-wheel drive. So you get all the popular LUV features. Plus some new ones. Like LUV Diesel's Quick-On system. Which means the engine is ready to start in just 3½ seconds or less. And LUV Diesel has pep. With a hefty SAE net torque rating of 93 lb.-ft. at 2200 RPMs.

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EPA EST. MPG (CITY)

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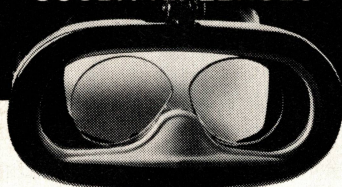
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INCOMING TIDE

(Continued from Page 11)

how unfortunate it is that you are not in a position to list all known such disreputable operators on the pages of your magazine. These scuba gypsies are not only a problem for those divers visiting their operations, but also are a source of considerable concern for those of us in the dive travel industry who constantly strive to maintain the very highest standards possible.

The point of this letter to you, however, is to bring to light the other side of the coin — the rip-offs that reputable operators have to live with. How often it is that my staff and I strive to provide the best dive vacation to our clients only to have certain people leave at the end of the week without settling their bills. Not only do some not settle bills, but they also omit to return rental equipment . . .

This year, to date, I have had 15 people run out on their bills, totaling an excess of \$2,200 and have had stolen (i.e. not returned) regulators with pressure gauges; depth gauges; BC's; and weightbelts with weights. This causes us considerably increased expenses making it more difficult for us to maintain reasonable prices.

These people come from all over the U.S.A., making legal retribution on the part of the dive operator impossible. How sad it is that the names/addresses of these persons cannot be listed in the pages of your magazine so that other operators may be warned. It is my honest opinion that these people make a habit of stealing free vacations whenever they travel.

It is due to such dishonesty and lack of decency of a few that dive operators have to enforce certain rigid policies for not accepting personal checks or credit cards, requiring deposits on equipment, early check out, etc., to protect themselves, but which cause considerable inconvenience to those valued clients who would never dream of such conduct.

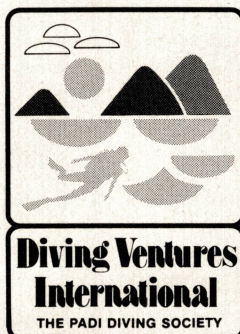
To all our valued clients, we apologize for any inconvenience caused you and will look forward to doing our best to make up for such when you visit our facility next.
PETER A. HUGHES
DIVE BONAIRE N.V.

Freedom

I applaud your article in the April issue, *Freedom Under the Sea* . . . I would like you to know that you can count on me . . . I am new to this sport and I love it the way it is. I have not read much about this matter, until now. So keep it up Mr. Barada, I know that divers in this country will say "aye" when the time is right.
ENRIQUE A. PAREDES
HIALEAH, FL

Let PADI's Diving Ventures International Save You Money on Exotic Dive Travel.

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☐ Please send further information right away. This sounds like something too exciting to miss!

☐ I want to talk to my local PADI Training Facility about this program. Send me a list of authorized stores.

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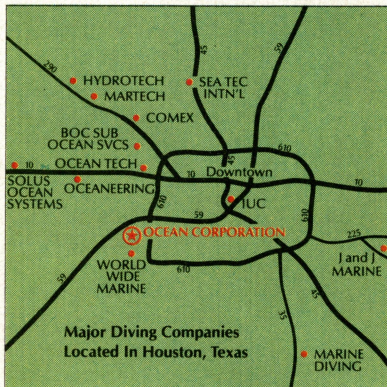
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Why Houston?

BECAUSE

The Ocean Corporation is located in Houston and more commercial divers are hired in Houston than in any other place in the world. Twelve diving companies are located in Houston including three of the four largest in the U.S. Many others are located in the nearby New Orleans area. The demand for divers is so great in Houston that large locally based diving companies like Ocean Systems, Hydrotech Systems, Martech International and Sea Tech International have hired many of our students for part-time work while they were attending school. Over 90% of our recent graduates went to work for these and other local diving companies when they completed our program. Houston is the place where the action is... the commercial diving, offshore construction and oil industry capital of the world.



BECAUSE

The Ocean Corporation is a commercial diving company, not just a school. Our facilities, equipment and training aids are the best, and our diving systems are as up-to-date as possible... because much of the equipment is used by our diving operations division to perform actual diving contracts in the field. Ocean Corporation has successfully completed many underwater jobs for various industrial clients over the years... including specialized underwater inspections, maintenance and repair work. For example, we did the world's first commercial underwater repair job in a nuclear power plant. And most of our divers have been graduates of our own school.

BECAUSE

The Ocean Corporation is a convenient and exciting place to go to school. Houston is one of the fastest-growing and most dynamic cities anywhere. It is a city of expansion, energy and youth (the average resident's age is in the mid-20's). Houston offers every conceivable kind of entertainment, from sports events, ultra-modern discos and open-air theater to rough-house local rodeos, chili cook-offs and the new Texas-size

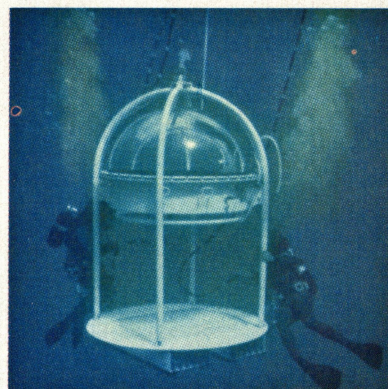


country-western dance clubs. Reasonably priced adult and singles apartments are readily available within walking distance of the school, and fast-food to luxury restaurants are nearby. The semi-tropical climate is wonderful, the sport diving is great and the folks are friendly.

BECAUSE

The Ocean Corporation management and instructor staff have long-term experience in the international offshore oilfield diving business. Retired ex-military divers and sport scuba divers don't run the school... *commercial* divers do. For example, the President of The Ocean Corporation, Larry

Cushman, was Vice President and Europe/Africa Area Manager for Ocean Systems, Inc. for three years... with responsibility for all North Sea diving and underwater construction operations. He also worked six years as a manager for Oceaneering International, Inc., another of the world's largest commercial diving contractors. Ocean Corporation managers and instructors know today's diving business... first-hand, from recent experience.



The Ocean Corporation

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If you are interested in becoming a commercial diver, please write and ask for our free information package on job opportunities, our school and our super city. If you'd rather call, make it collect and ask for Fred Tourtel
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Diver's Calendar

September 11-13 New Medical Aspects of Diving Conference, Stanford Sierra Lodge, Tahoe, CA. Sponsored by NAUI Mid-Pacific Branch. (Contact: Nancy Guarascio, Conference Director, 5701 Snake Road, Oakland, CA 94611; (415) 482-2326)

September 25-26 Fifth Annual Cayman Party, Houston Oaks Hotel, Grand Cayman, BWI. Slide presentations and dive music by Barefoot Man and his band. (Contact: The Cayman Party, Box 1249, Grand Cayman, BWI)

September 26 Underwater '81 — the Fall Edition of the Underwater Film Review — John Hancock Hall, Berkeley St., Boston, MA. (Contact: Fred Calhoun, P.O. Box 291, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117)

September 26 The Princeton Scuba Club presents The Stan Waterman Show, 8:00 pm at McCosh 50, Princeton University. (Contact: Kay Lasley, 306 Alexander St., Princeton, NJ 08540; (609) 924-4240)

September 26-27 Sixth Annual Sonoma County Diver Rescue Workshop, Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa, CA. (Contact: Sonoma County Diver Rescue Workshop, P.O. Box 3967, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, Attention: Mel Cumins — Send a self-addressed envelope with 36¢ postage)

October 4-9 In-Depth Diving Seminar on Catalina Island, CA. Presentations and practice sessions on advanced dive skills. (Contact: Jon Hardy, Argo Diving Services, P.O. Box 1201, Avalon, CA 90704; (213) 510-2208)

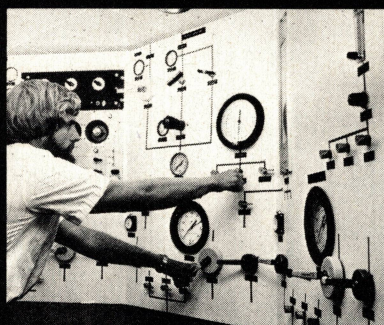
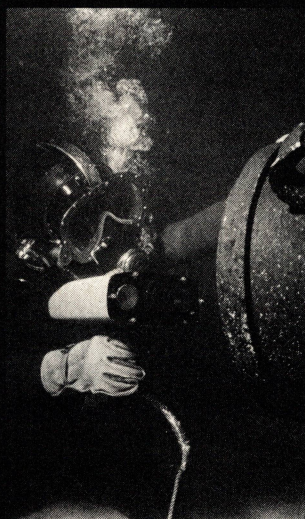
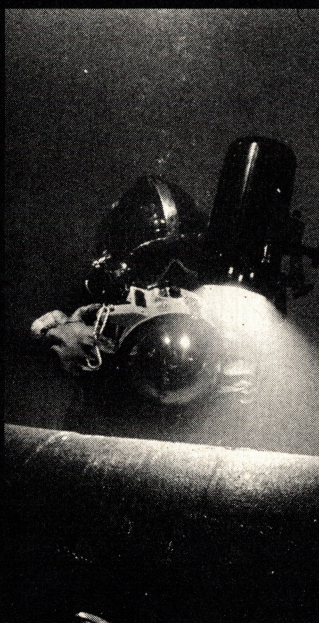
October 16-17 Fifth Annual Underwater Film Symposium, sponsored by the Rockford Divers Association and featuring Paul Tzimoulis. Holiday Inn, South Beloit, IL. (Contact: Bill Steinborn, 1385 Randall Dr., Rockford, IL 61108; (815) 332-4225)

October 18-23 Recognition and Management of Diving Casualties course, Travelodge Tower, San Diego, CA. (Contact: Edith Bookstein, Office of Continuing Education, M-017, UCSD School of Medicine, La Jolla, CA 92093)

October 21-23 Annual meeting of the North Pacific Chapter of the Undersea Medical Society, Benson Hotel, Portland, OR. (Contact: Dr. Joseph A. Parent, Jr., Mt. Hood College Center, 10100 N.E. Prescott, Portland, OR 97220)

November 1-6 In-Depth Diving Seminar on Catalina Island, CA. Presentations and practice sessions on advanced dive skills. (Contact: Jon Hardy, Argo Diving Services, P.O. Box 1201, Avalon, CA 90704; (213) 510-2208)

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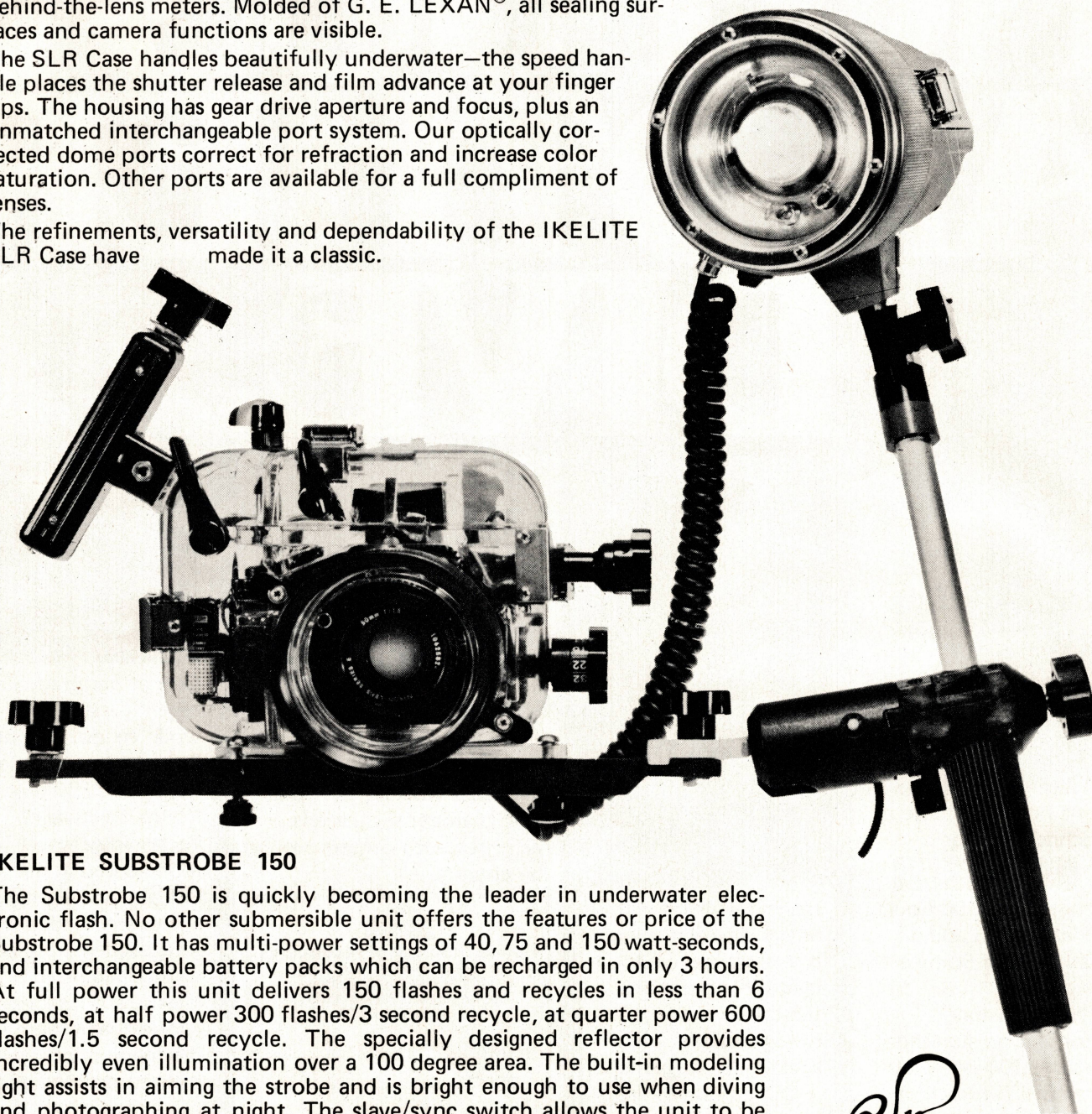
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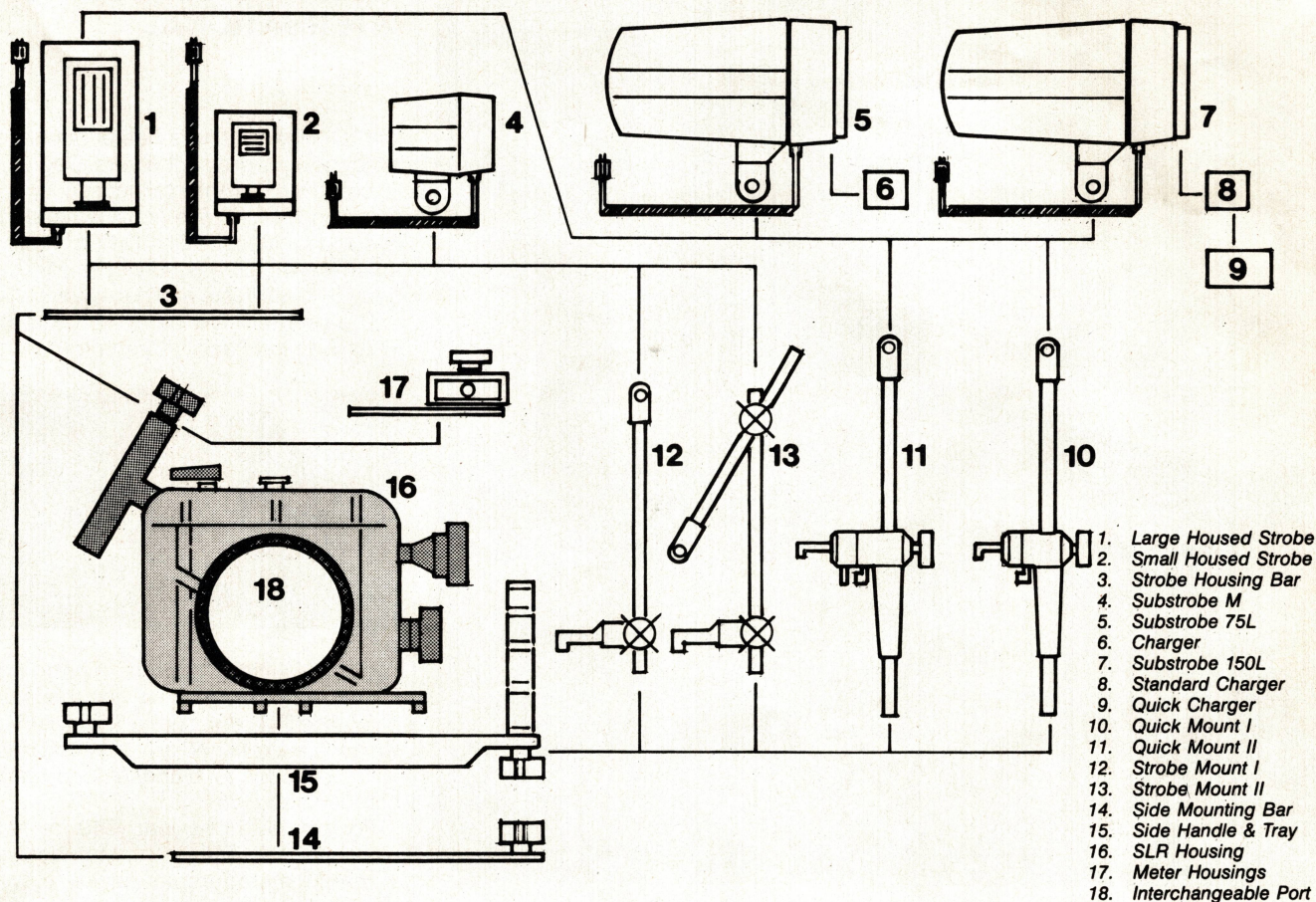
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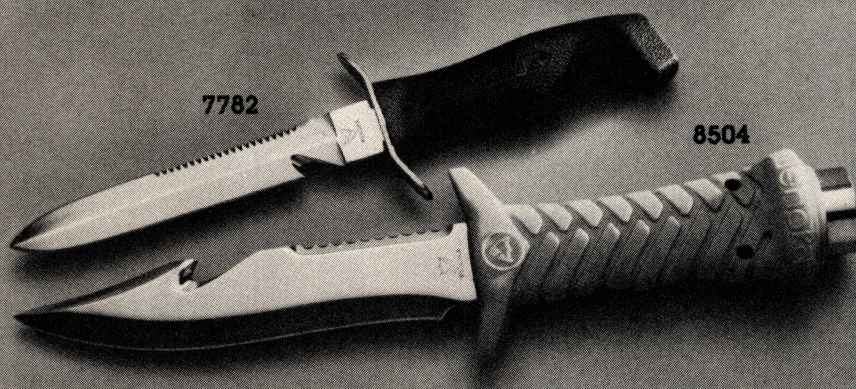
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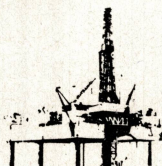


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PADI Headquarters has announced a major new program for divers. Dedicated to creating and maintaining an ever increasing level of dive activities and travel opportunities, PADI's Diving Ventures International (DVI) is now open for membership to all divers and non-divers alike.

The program will be administered by PADI Training Facility Director, Al Horns-



by, at PADI Headquarters. According to Hornsby, "Through surveying thousands of certified divers during the past year, we have ascertained a very strong desire within our sport for a consumer organization such as DVI."

For only \$25 per year (\$40 for family membership), DVI members receive a valuable membership package worth hundreds of dollars.


Dive Travel Coordination Service — A simple telephone call can provide full information and reservation arrangements to many popular, reliable dive resorts.

Members receive a coupon book each year worth hundreds of dollars. Redeemable at participating PADI Training Facilities and select dive resorts, the coupons provide free opportunities and significant savings for air fills, resort activities, dives, lodging and other services.

A unique quarterly newspaper provides members with important dive activities information, coordinated by region. Included are local dive site directions, dive event information and local dive training schedules for the U.S. and Canada. Also provided is a wealth of other reading concerning travel opportunities and schedules, a dive buddy hotline, equipment news and reviews and other pertinent happenings.

Members receive two colorful decals, for placement on luggage, camera cases, car, etc.

An attractive Active Member card identifies the member and authorizes use of the rebate and free dive services coupon.

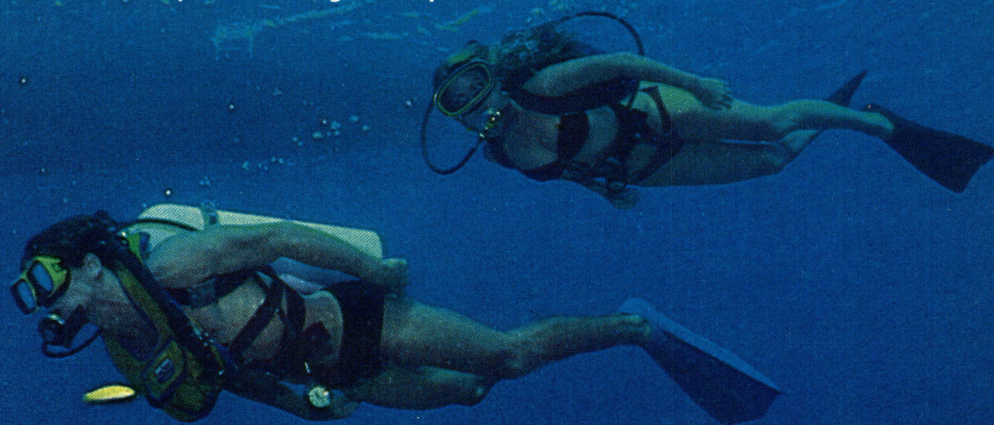
For further information and membership application, write: Diving Ventures International, Box R, 2064 N. Bush Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706 — or see your local PADI Training Facility. 

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SDM9/81

Technifacts

BY E.R. CROSS



In February, 1981, Technifacts presented a brief overview of commercial diving, including the employment outlook. Since then, comments about that column have been received. One letter in particular contained information about offshore oil field diving that should be of value to potential dive school students and of interest to all commercial divers and others concerned with the offshore oil industry.

The letter was from Larry Cushman, president of The Ocean Corporation — a commercial diving service company and commercial oil field diver training organization located in Houston, Texas. Cushman has been involved in offshore oil field

work for many years and has organized The Ocean Corporation's diver training program to meet the needs of the industry.

Some of the differences in the data presented in the February Technifacts and in Cushman's letter are owing in part to the period of time between the collection of my data and the receipt of the letter. My research for the column in question was done in early and mid-1980 and the column was written in September and October. It usually takes three months from the time I write Technifacts until it appears in SKIN DIVER.

Cushman's February letter states:

"I am writing to you to offer up-to-date

information . . . I am very interested in your SDM columns because they will have a significant impact on my business, which is commercial oil field diver training.

"First, let me say that I am familiar with your background in commercial diving. When I first took over the six month old Commercial Diving Center in Wilmington, CA . . . in 1969, I realized you had pioneered commercial diving training with the Sparling School of Deep Sea Diving; also in Wilmington. I have kept in touch with you through your prolific writing ever since . . .

"The offshore oil field dive business has changed considerably in the last five



That can't be Jack...

***I didn't even think
he knew how to swim!***

***Looks like he knows
more than we thought...***

years, and is continuing to change rapidly. Even the terminology is changing. I was fortunate enough to head up Ocean System's international marketing group in 1979 . . . and spent six months analyzing the international oil field dive business for them. I had access to some very comprehensive industry reports . . . through Ocean System's new parent company, Ensearch Corporation. I also had considerable first-hand experience with the commercial diving activities in the North Sea area, which is still the most advanced area in the world in terms of dive equipment and operational procedures development — mainly because of the water depth and adverse weather

"One of the results of the analysis effort for Ocean Systems has been, in my opinion, the first accurate overview of the most active area of commercial diving; offshore oil field diving . . . I have since used the inch-thick report as a basis for a chapter on commercial diving in, *The Technology of Offshore Drilling, Production and Completion* (Petroleum Publishing Company), which will be published this year, and for my lecture outlines at the University of Houston/International Association of Drilling Contractors, School of Offshore Operations (Houston), which I have taught for six years. The sections of this paper which may interest you most are 3.0, 5.4 through 5.8 and 6.0. These are areas of oil field diving where new things have

happened most recently.

"I am also enclosing information on our school. Diver training has not really changed too much since Sparling, but I am now trying hard to train students who meet the needs of today's . . . industry. This industry is considerably different from the inshore and non-oil field diving business, and the two should not be confused. Let me give you a few examples that relate to items in your column:

"1. Underwater TV is used almost exclusively now for underwater inspection documentation in the offshore oil field diving industry. Color TV was introduced to the . . . industry in the summer of 1979 and is now being requested more often by oil companies. Underwater still photography (as compared to TV) is seldom used today.

"2. Most of the oil companies (and the dive companies) are now demanding that diver-inspectors be formally qualified. In the U.S. the qualification is by ASNT (American Society for Non-destructive Testing). In the U.K. it is by Lloyd's qualifications, which is now mandatory. The usual underwater production platform inspection team performing mag-particle and ultrasonic flaw detection in the U.S. today, consists of an ASNT-certified Level III inspection supervisor (topside) and Level I or II diver-technician (underwater). Most dive companies are switching from underwater read-out, to topside read-out, ultrasonic

equipment to get better accuracy. Platform inspection is, by far, the most active area. Mag-particle is the most commonly used technique (other than visual/TV) for platforms because the oil companies are most concerned about surface cracks in the welds on the older platforms. Inspection is the fastest growing activity in the . . . business. Many offshore dive companies, including Taylor Diving and Salvage, Oceaneering International, Solus Ocean Systems, Comex and some of the smaller companies have in-house underwater NDT divisions. Ocean Corporation provides the only training in the U.S.

"3. There are a lot more than 2300 divers on the payrolls of the 12 largest international dive companies, but we don't know how many more. I do know there are more than 2300 in the North Sea area alone. There are about 60 companies located in the Gulf of Mexico area (Houston/New Orleans/Morgan City) including four of the five largest in the world. And the seasonal aspect of diving is going away. Diving is now conducted year around in the Gulf of Mexico and in the North Sea (from large CDV's and semi-submersible derrick barges). We estimate about 800 new tenders are now entering the dive business in the U.S. every year, and this does not count the new people coming out of the schools in Canada, England and Norway (probably about 200 per year).

(Continued on Page 30)

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SS-236



RX FOR DIVERS

BY CHARLES V. BROWN, M.D.

TEETH AND THE DIVER

The dentist surely prevents more pain than he inflicts. But when you're planted in the mechanized chair watching the needle come closer, you may not

think of that. Hurting is bad enough. Having to pay to be hurt is worse. And if you're a diver, you could be out more than the bill indicates.

Question: From Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, William Markley writes to bemoan the loss of all his upper teeth. He has a denture and his own lower teeth, so if he comes to California he'll be able to chew the abalone — if he can get any. His problem is holding a regulator in his mouth. With the denture out, the regulator hurts his upper gum. With it in, the facemask hurts his upper lip. He knows of several others who quit diving because of the same problem. With the Red Sea so close he won't do that, but is there any relief?

Answer: Your dilemma is not uncommon. A number of divers who've had

regulator securely and your only problem is pinching of the lip between mask and denture, a solution should be easy. Loosen the tension on your mask strap. If this results in leaking, the mask probably doesn't fit your face with the denture in place. Try other masks. Or if you wear your mask strap low on the back of your head, try raising it to relieve the pinch.

If it's difficult to hold the regulator with denture in place, which is fairly common with those who wear both upper and lower dentures, there are other possible solutions. You might try a moldable bite block — the kind you heat up and then bite your own unique dental pattern into. A more elegant and expensive extension of this strategy is to have a dental lab build you a custom mouthpiece. A simpler fix would be to strap your regulator to

most or all of their tusks yanked have experienced frustration trying to hold regulators securely in their mouths. Unfortunately, no manufacturer currently designs special mouthpieces for the edentulous.

If the denture permits you to hold a

your head as you do your mask. The attachment should be firm enough for adequate support yet easily broken in the unlikely event that you should need to remove or ditch your regulator.

If nothing works, there may still be help from the real experts — readers who

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Question: Dive instructor Martha Kiser of Baltimore, Maryland has two prospective students she's not sure she should accept. They're on medication for high blood pressure. Both are in their late 40's and in good physical condition.

Answer: Hypertension per se, if well controlled, is not disqualifying, but there are two areas of concern. First, there may be a complication such as coronary artery disease which jeopardizes dive safety. Second, some of the medicines commonly used to control blood pressure create a hazard. For example, those that work by inhibiting the effect of the sympathetic nervous system, inhibit a diver's ability to respond to stress. He'll do fine when all is mellow, but may fold when the going gets rough. Have your students seek assurances on these points from their doctors. And have the candidates demonstrate their fitness to handle exertion in a pool.

Question: In 1976 mossback diver Larry Shipman of Greencastle, Indiana was in bad shape. Hodgkin's disease was ravaging his body. He responded well to heavy duty combination chemotherapy and radiation and has had no treatment since '77. Semi-annual checkups have been normal. Last December he announced his intent to resume diving, and when his doctors reacted with horror, he needed them with the hope that he'd already resumed six months earlier. Since then, two nice things have happened, but one of them worries him.

First, his tenacious sinus infection cleared up. Second, dives deeper than 30 feet for more than 20 minutes banish the aches and pains which afflict his battered, aged body, and for several days he's a new man. His concern: if the absence of aches is due to persistence of nitrogen narcosis, does this mean that he now retains nitrogen abnormally and is at high risk for bends? He wants to continue diving, but not if it will reform him in the shape of a pretzel.

Answer: Hodgkin's disease is malignant overgrowth of lymphatic tissue. Long ago it was almost always fatal, but modern treatment affords long term recovery and even cures. The drugs and radiation that kill the bad cells make the patient weak and suppress his immune system — no diving then. After recovery from both the Hodgkin's and the treatment, there's no reason to forbid diving. Periodic checkups, though, are essential to rule out recurrence.

Our theory on how diving cleared your sinus infection goes like this. Water or compressed air flushed out the mucus and pus. The sinus was then able to maintain its integrity because the Hodgkin's treatment knocked down lymphoid tissue that had blocked its opening, and because your suppressed immune system

PADI PHOTO COMPETITION

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1. The PADI Underwater Photography Search Competition is open to all amateur photographers. Only underwater photographs will be accepted.
2. All entries must be submitted to a participating facility for local judging. Local winning entries will then be sent to PADI Headquarters for international judging. Applicants may enter as many photographs as they wish; photographs may have been taken any time with no geographic restrictions.
3. An entrance form and a \$4.00 fee per entry to the participating Training Facility shall accompany all photographs submitted. The completed form acknowledges reprint rights for PADI International when proper photographic credit is given. The utmost care and handling will be given all entries, but no responsibility will be assumed by PADI International or any PADI Training Facility. Photographers retain ownership, and all entries will be returned after the judging has been completed.
4. Winners shall be chosen in one category, color slides. Participant's name, address, telephone number, facility name, and the title of the photo must be printed clearly on the back of each entry.
5. Local judging will be done by PADI Training Facility staff members, international judging will be done by the PADI Underwater Photography Search Competition Committee.
6. Winners will be chosen by a point system based on technique, lighting, and composition. Decisions by the judges shall be final.
7. The Search Competition shall begin August 1, 1981 and end September 30, 1981. National winners will be announced in Spring, 1982.

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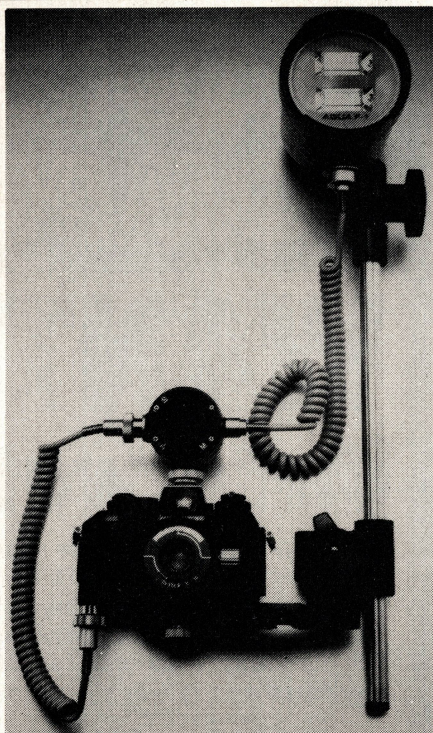
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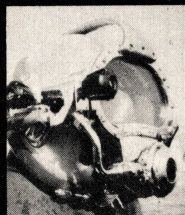


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RX FOR DIVERS

had recovered its ability to fight infection.

How diving mitigates your arthritic miseries is harder to explain. The analgesic effect of nitrogen would help, though it amounts to much only near the sport depth limit. Maybe oxygen helps a little; people claim feelings of well being after breathing pure oxygen on the surface (equivalent to 132 feet). Perhaps weightlessness, taking strain off postural muscles and improving circulation, has something to do with it. We suspect most important is the psychological benefit, washing away anxiety and relaxing tension. Many folks find diving a renewing experience. It's more effective than the tablets touted on TV and is a lot more fun.

Nitrogen narcosis is felt only at depth and is gone when a diver surfaces, so stop worrying — your continued relief does not imply retained nitrogen.

Question: A diver in Prattville, Alabama is breast feeding her new daughter. If she dives, would increased nitrogen levels in her blood affect lactation?

Answer: There's no reason to think so. But don't get bent. Bubbles clog the circulation and can cause shock. That will affect lactation.

Question: Darryl Jensen of Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan was puzzled by the behavior of his ears on a recent dive. They refused to clear at ten feet and hurt throughout the dive, then popped as he surfaced. That seemed odd. Furthermore, discomfort persisted; the doctor found that his eardrums were pushed inward.

Answer: By diving physics, when the eustachian tubes don't work, the pressure difference that builds up between the middle ears and ambient water upon descent would disappear upon ascent and no popping would be expected. It's possible that some compressed air did enter your middle ears at depth, and the popping was the sound of its escape. Your doctor's finding casts doubt on that explanation, so we'll suggest another.

Before the dive your eustachian tubes were marginally functional, and they happened to remain closed during descent. When the pressure differential gets big enough (ten feet is more than enough), the tubes seal completely. During the dive, middle ear air is gradually absorbed into the bloodstream, so your middle ear pressure may have dropped in absolute as well as relative terms. When you surfaced, it would have been less than the ambient one atmosphere, but close enough to allow the locked eustachian tubes to relax and let some air in (the popping).

Probably the squeeze irritated the eu-

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Viking Sport. And, at the end of the dive, when the others are looking for a warm place to change, you just step out of your Viking Suit, and put on your jacket and shoes. Try not to smile while you watch your friends struggling out of their wet suits, shivering in their wet bodies.

WINTER

The Viking undersuit (standard diver protection in the Canadian Navy) keeps you warm. And, unlike foam neoprene, your protection stays with you, however deep you go. Add a little extra air to your suit and walk around upside down, on the underside of the ice. (But stay on a line to your entry hole!)

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RX FOR DIVERS

stachian membranes and they swelled, making tube function worse than pre-dive. That would explain the pushed in drums.

Question: Les Hoelscher of Burlington, Iowa loves diving even in muddy ponds, but is driven to distraction by a rash that develops every time he dons a wetsuit. It lasts several miserable days.

Answer: Sounds like a sensitivity reaction to what you wear. To be sure it's not the nylon lining, try a wetsuit that has none. If this makes no difference, chances are it's the neoprene or something in it. You might try neoprene manufactured by different suppliers, eg. gas vs. chemical blown. It needn't be a full suit — just a piece of the material strapped to your abdomen for awhile. If nothing helps and you're determined to continue cold water diving, get a Viking or other loose fitting drysuit and wear clothing or long underwear under it.

INTRA-OCULAR LENS WARNING

Ophthalmologists are always coming up with new ways to improve vision. One that's being used lately for cataracts, is to remove the defective natural lens and replace it with an artificial lens mounted in the same position inside the eye. Our November '80 column opined that this operation would not prevent safe diving, since changes in ambient pressure would not alter pressure relationships within the eye. Reader Benjamin Rubin of Hempstead, New York points out that there are several methods of fixing an intra-ocular lens in place. If the lens is supported only by iris loops, it is unwise to assume a face down posture in poor light — something divers often do. In the dark the pupil opens widely, and the lens could drop through it into the anterior chamber of the eye. A diver considering such an operation should discuss this point with his doctor. >

SCARED OF SHARKS?

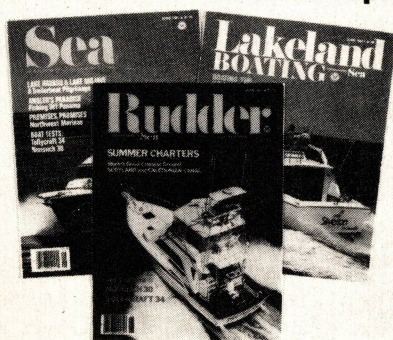
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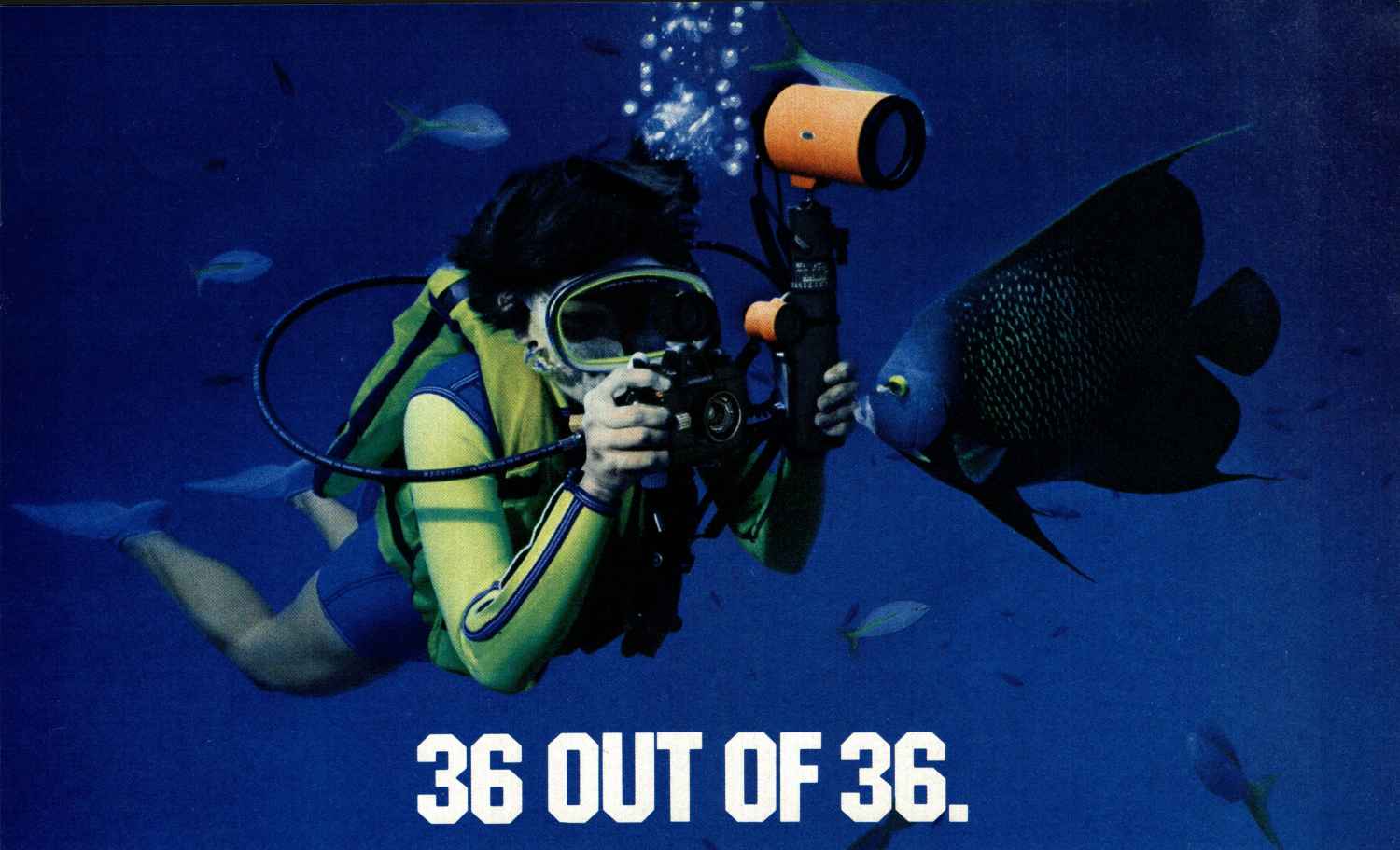
For boating enthusiasts everywhere, the new wave of Petersen Marine Group publications offers the most complete coverage available today!

At your local
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TECHNIFACTS

(Continued from Page 25)

"4. The statement that, 'fewer divers (are) being used than five or six years ago,' is not correct. The drilling and production equipment have always been remotely or automatically controlled — but they still use divers — constantly. Most floating rigs (drillships and semi-submersibles) have full time dive crews on board. However, this type of oil field diving accounts for only about 20 percent of the total dive industry revenue. Seventy percent comes from construction diving (i.e., diving support work related to the installation of production platforms, pipelines and offshore loading buoys) This is usually long term saturation work,



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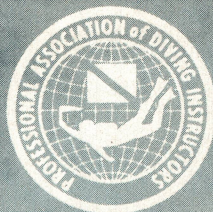
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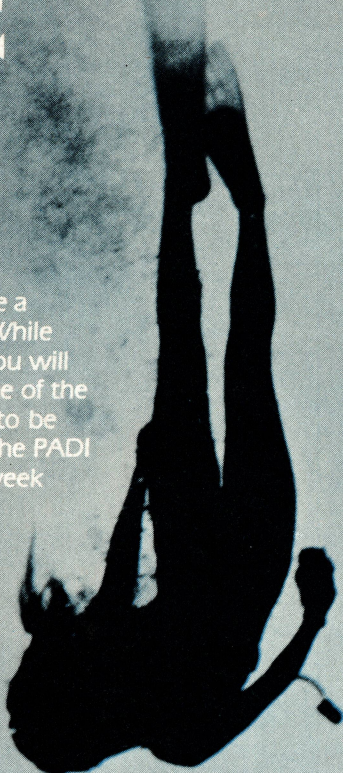


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109

TECHNIFACTS

so it is high paying to the divers and to their companies. About 70 percent of this type work is done overseas. Most of it is done from construction barges and specialty vessels. The most active areas are the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and the North Sea. The fastest growing areas today are Brazil and Mexico. The dive industry growth rate in construction is estimated by A. D. Little Company to be at least nine percent per year and increasing. This type of diving has little to do with city, state, or government projects . . . it is strictly offshore oil field diving. No unions are involved except on the West Coast and in Alaska.

"By the way, 'shirt sleeve' one-atmosphere production systems are *not* being used operationally in the field. Lockheed's system has been for sale for two years.

"In reference to the first item in your January SDM column, please note that the Ocean Corporation performed the first dive in a nuclear reactor in December, 1973 at Palisades, Michigan. We presently have a nuclear dive team doing underwater repair work inside Arkansas Nuclear One in Russellville, Arkansas. We have long-term contracts with Babcock and Wilcox and Combustion Engineering for performing this type work, and do more of it than *any* U.S. company.

"Please let me know if you need more specific information.

"Best Regards,

"Larry Cushman, President, The Ocean Corporation"

There is not space available in this month's Technifacts to reply to or comment on Cushman's letter. Technifacts for October, 1981 will be devoted to such a reply and will present any additional comments received from divers, other commercial diving schools, or from the offshore oil industry.

The primary purpose of Technifacts is to present a true picture of all aspects of commercial diving: training, job potential, hazards, skills required, jobs that divers must do, and as much information as possible about the advanced sport diver's potential place in commercial diving. As stressed in prior Technifacts, the column is not intended to be a training course but is an effort to acquaint divers with the kinds of work a commercial diver must do. The proper route to commercial diving is via a commercial dive school. However, it is hoped this column will be of value to prospective dive school students in making an evaluation of their own individual skills, aptitude and desires for comparison with the many requirements they must meet to successfully cope with the facets of commercial diving. »

The Big "J"

The Jack Suit (for men) and the Jill Suit (for women) have been available for more than a year and their popularity has been sensational. These one-piece Jump Suits offer the utmost in comfort and convenience. Made of either King Turtle or Glowflex material, (shown here with available arm zips) the Jack and Jill Jump Suits are built tough. All seams are sewn inside and out with finished edges, and triple-bonded with neoprene glue. They're an excellent choice for any diver's wardrobe. See the Jack and Jill in your local dive shop or send \$1.10 for our new Imperial Catalog.

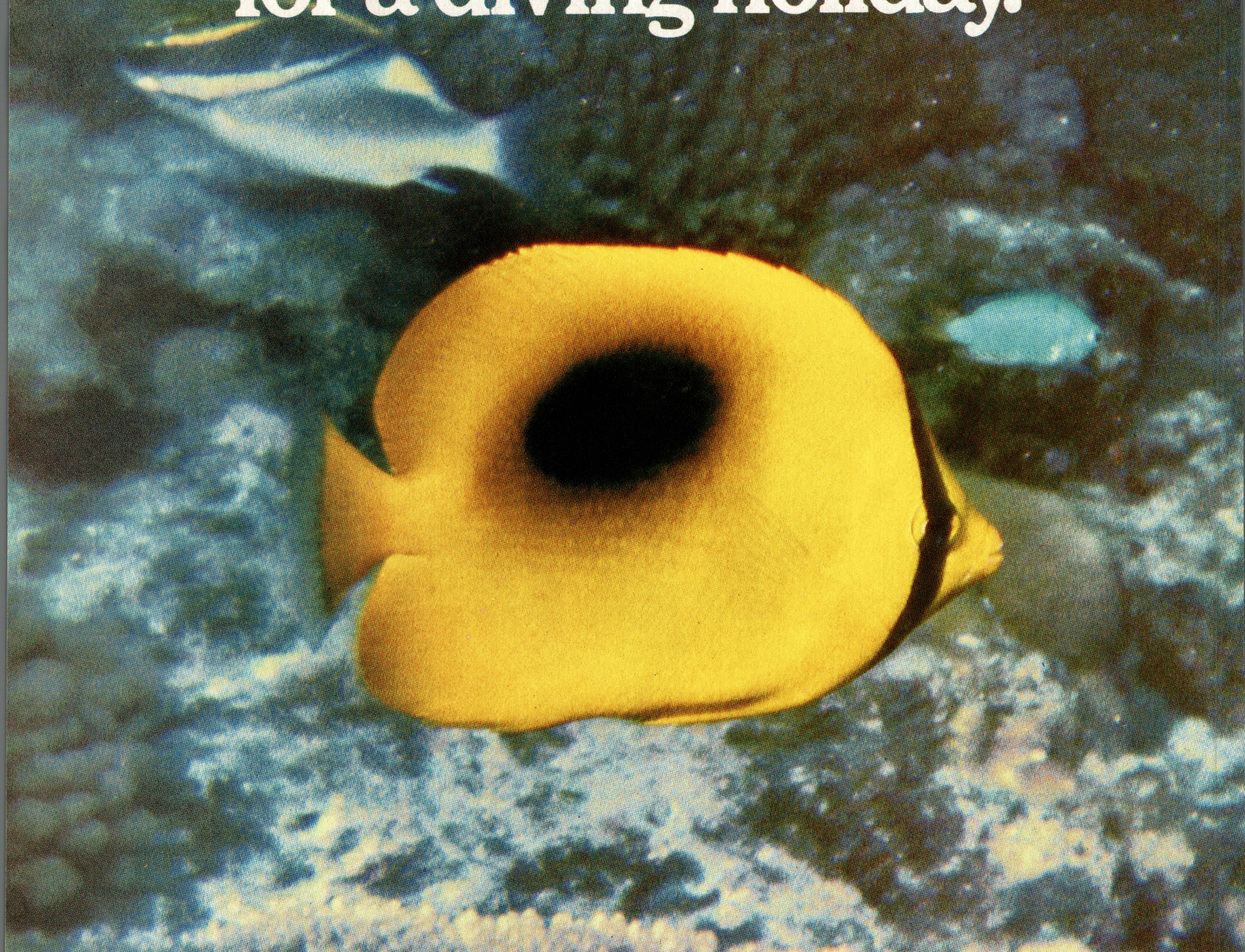
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In 1977 it was the venue for the World's Underwater Congress.

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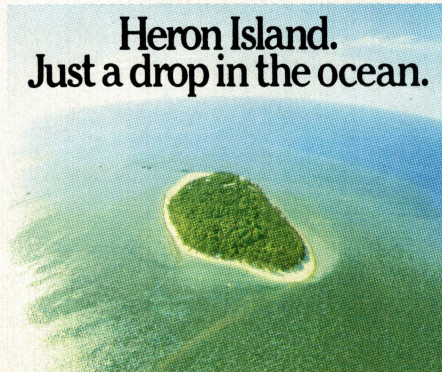
Crays and turtles parade with fish fanciful as their names: Tiny Damsels, Sergeant Majors, Humbugs and the Red Emperor and Coral Trout.

The latter two tend to make a succulent appearance at our sumptuous evening meals in the modern resort complex. Where the dive shop has pride of place with our disco and dangerously friendly bar.

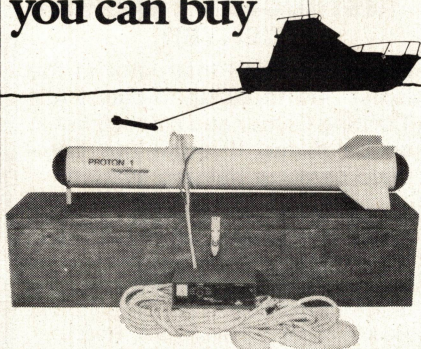
If you think that Heron Island sounds just the diving spot for you, you're certainly in good company.

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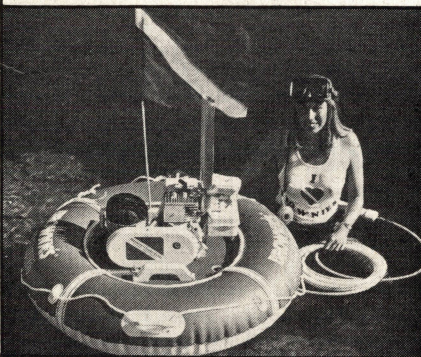


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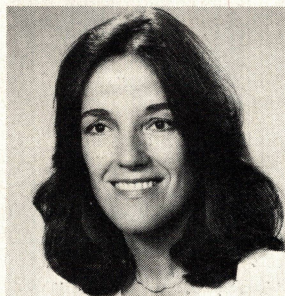
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MCKENNEY JOINS BLUEWATER

Patricia McKenney has joined Blue-Water wetsuits as director of marketing and sales. NAUI certified, Pat has been diving since 1960. Her background includes underwater modeling and assisting with the production of underwater



films. She has ten years experience in sales, marketing and design with Interpace Corporation of Los Angeles. More recently, she was branch manager for Bedrosian Building Supply, a wholesale distributor of ceramic tile and appliances. Pat's primary involvement will be follow-up and service, an overriding concern in the Los Angeles company's marketing approach.

RECTOR JOINS SCUBAPRO

Carl Rector, founder of Bayley Suits, has joined Scubapro. In his new capacity, Carl will act as consultant to the



Scubapro wetsuit division. Carl, an avid diver, brings 26 years of suit design and manufacturing experience to Scubapro.

For more information contact: Scubapro, 3105 East Harcourt, Compton, CA 90221.

HENDERSON/KRAMER

Arthur Kramer Advertising has been appointed to handle the full line of Henderson wet and drysuits.

Henderson Aquatics of Millville, New Jersey distributes through more than 300 retail outlets in the U.S. as well as extensive foreign distribution.

Arthur Kramer Advertising of Jericho, New York is a newly formed agency headed by Arthur Kramer, a former senior vice president/creative supervisor with J. Walter Thompson. Mr. Kramer is also an experienced scuba diver.

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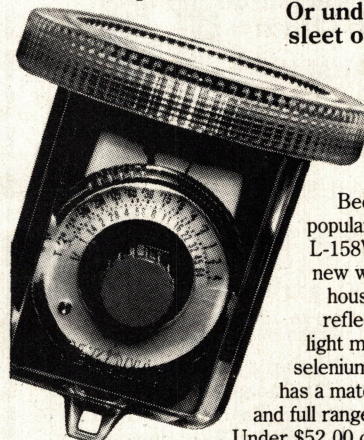
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- ___ Forearm
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- ___ Biceps
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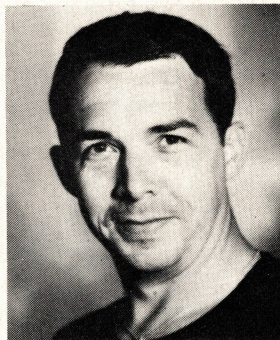
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VIKING DRYSUITS

A unique line of drysuits is now being marketed in the U.S. by the Diving Division of Viking Technical Rubber at West Haven, Connecticut. This factory has been purchased by Viking Stavanger, the



Norwegian developers of the Viking drysuit. Factory representative, Stig Insulan, will direct the marketing and servicing of commercial and sport suits here. Viking's prior distributor in the U.S., Craig Jennings Diving Equipment Supply, will continue to provide sales and marketing support.

Viking Technical Rubber, Diving Division, is located at 163 Orange Avenue, West Haven, Connecticut 06516; (203) 933-6744. Literature on sport and commercial suits is available on request.

DACOR DOLLARS

Thousands of Dacor dollars, the size and shape of an American silver dollar, will be scattered over the reef in Freeport, Bahamas, by the Underwater Explorers Society this month. Each dollar will be redeemable at all participating Dacor dealers for a dollar off the price of Dacor dive gear. There is no limit to the number of Dacor dollars that may be used.

A cocktail party, hosted by the Underwater Explorers Society, will be given at the end of each week. The diver who discovers the most Dacor dollars will be presented with a Bahamian gold coin worth approximately \$500 in American currency.

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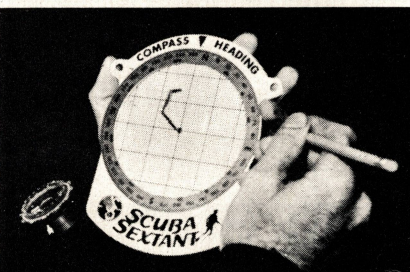
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The education you will receive at PDSNY is the result of work begun 30 years ago, and which continues today by a recognized expert in deep diving and submarine technology. Andre Galerne, founder and president of IUC, began his work in France as a diver in World War II, later joining Jacques Cousteau aboard the Calypso, there to begin his career of developing safe and innovative diving and submersible techniques.

IUC, which includes Mr. Cousteau among its board members, has become an international leader in underwater industry. It was the first to develop and utilize tri-gas breathing mixtures, and the first to compress divers deeper than 1,000 feet. Galerne's newest innovation, a hyperbaric diver transfer system, is being utilized in the North Sea. IUC developed the North Sea Hyperbaric Center in Aberdeen, Scotland. It is the only hyperbaric facility specifically designed for diver transfer, under continuous pressure, in an emergency medical or evacuation situation.

The submersibles Techdiver, Beaver Mark IV, Mermaid II, Pisces VI, Mantis X and Mantis XI, in IUC's fleet, are capable of working at depths to 1.5 miles—beyond the capabilities of divers. However, trained divers are required to operate the submersibles.

To ensure the availability of professionally and properly trained divers, IUC established PDSNY. It was obvious that we would have to make significant changes in traditional diver training techniques if we were to find, train, and hire the kind of diver that IUC and the industry needed. The school is staffed by IUC's own diving supervisors under the direct management of IUC's training and safety department. You will be taught the highest standards of the industry by field qualified instructors.

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We believe it is essential that our graduates have a working knowledge and skill in all areas required of commercial divers. Therefore, we include in our course tuition:

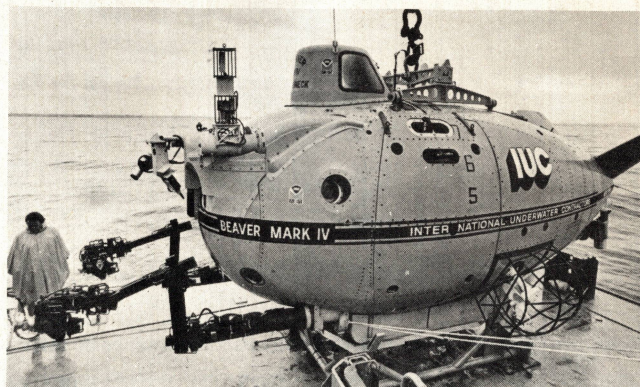
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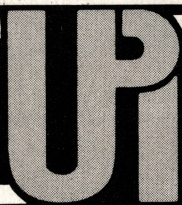
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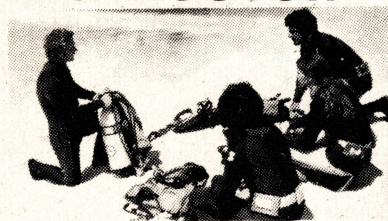


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Roy Brizz, of Roy Brizz Advertising, was recently named chairman of the Annual Celebrity Roast. Brizz is on the board of directors for the Medical Center Aides



who sponsor the event each year. The charity Roast raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for research at the City of Hope.

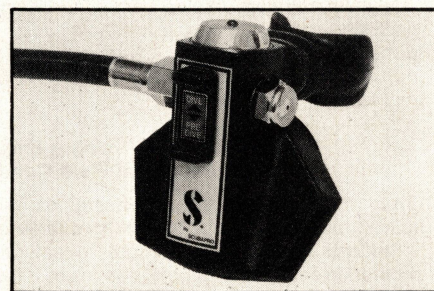
This year's honoree is comedian and writer, Pat McCormick. The Roast, to be held November 6, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, CA, is open to all.

For more information, please call Roy Brizz at (213) 384-3455.

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In June of 1979, the Navy Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU) in Panama City, Florida performed tests on 36 scuba regulators then manufactured in the United States. These commercially available regulators were evaluated as to breathing, respiratory work and first stage performance. The regulators were classified into three groups — A, B, and C; Group A was the category for highest performers.

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For further information, refer to the Navy Experimental Diving Report: No. 2-80, Evaluation of Commercially Available Open Circuit Regulators, by James R. Middleton, March 1980 — or contact Scubapro at 3105 East Harcourt, Compton, California 90221.

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John W. Manlove — President. Mr. Manlove, a co-founder of the Institute served in the U.S. Navy until his retirement in 1967. He is a graduate of the U.S. Navy Deep Sea Diving School, Washington, D.C., and served as a diver aboard the USS Bryce Canyon, Nereus, Sperry and Klondike. He is experienced in ship repair and salvage, missile and ordnance recovery, underwater welding and cutting, underwater demolition for harbor clearance and diving instruction. Prior to founding the Institute, Mr. Manlove served as Chief Diving Officer-in-Charge of HeO₂ dives at the Underwater Technology Institute and as a free-lance diver in Alaska and Seattle. Mr. Manlove served as Vice President and Director of Training of the Institute for eight years prior to assuming the Presidency in April, 1976. He is a member of the Executive Committee, Institute of Diving; Panama City, Florida and he maintains close liaison with the U.S. Navy, the Association of Diving Contractors, and the Association of Commercial Diving Educators in matters pertaining to commercial diving training. Mr. Manlove was appointed to serve a term as President of the Association of Commercial Diving Educators in February, 1980.



Robert J. Schnepf — Master Diver/Senior Instructor/Director of Training. Mr. Schnepf served in the U.S. Navy until his retirement in 1971. After graduation from the U.S. Navy Deep Sea Diving School in Washington, D.C. in 1946, he served aboard various Navy salvage ships as tender and diver as well as Master Diver. His experience lies in the fields of ship repair and salvage, underwater welding and cutting, explosives, all phases of mixed gas diving and chamber operation in treatment of diving injuries. Mr. Schnepf assumed his new duties as Director of Training in April, 1976 and he was instrumental in developing the six-month training curriculum for the Institute. He has served as Master Diver and Senior Instructor for the Institute since August, 1971.



John L. Ritter — Instructor/Secretary, Treasurer. Mr. Ritter started his diving career in September, 1967. He is a graduate of the U.S. Navy Second Class Diver's School and the First Class Salvage Diver's School. Upon his separation from the Navy, Mr. Ritter attended the course of instruction at this Institute, graduating in December, 1971. He has had specialized training and experience in HeO₂ diving and manifold operation, salvage, underwater demolition, underwater burning and welding and shallow-water and deep-sea gear. He has been employed with Taylor Diving and Salvage in New Orleans and various commercial diving companies in the local area. In addition, he has completed courses in Industrial First Aid and Chamber Operation as set forth by the Department of Labor & Industries, Division of Safety, State of Washington. He has served as an Instructor at the Institute since January, 1972 and he assumed duties as Secretary/Treasurer in April, 1976.

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San Clemente

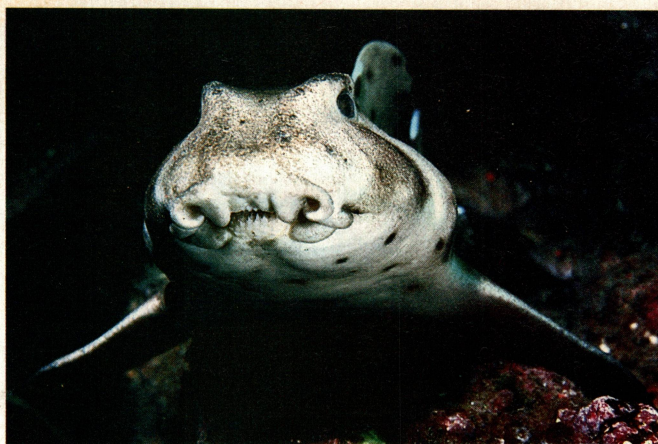
*It's a California Island
with wrecks, coral, cliffs, caves, kelp and marine life*

By Alan Heller



On a clear day you can see it from high vantage points around the Los Angeles basin. From some angles it appears as an extension of the closer and better known Santa Catalina. But, as one looks more closely, its distance and singular outline clearly distinguish it as the southernmost of the eight Channel Islands — San Clemente. Forty-three miles from the mainland, it is approximately 18 miles long and four miles wide.

First discovered in 1542 by Spanish explorer, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the island has undergone several changes over the intervening years. Since 1848 it has been owned by the Federal government and administered by the Department of the Navy. An airstrip lies at the western end and a few buildings can be found on other parts of the island. Landing on it is prohibited. However, the surrounding waters are open to scuba diving and afford some of the most beautiful and in-



photo/Rodney Anton

A horn shark in close-up appears far more formidable than usual.



The depth charge racks of the USS Butler are home to varied marine life.

teresting diving to be found anywhere in the Channel Islands. There are wrecks to explore, purple coral beds, underwater cliffs and caves, and vast kelp forests with a myriad of fish life.

To reach the island you must have access to a private boat or make reservations on one of the many Los Angeles or San Diego dive charter boats that frequent the area. Their captains know the island well and can ensure a memorable dive adventure.

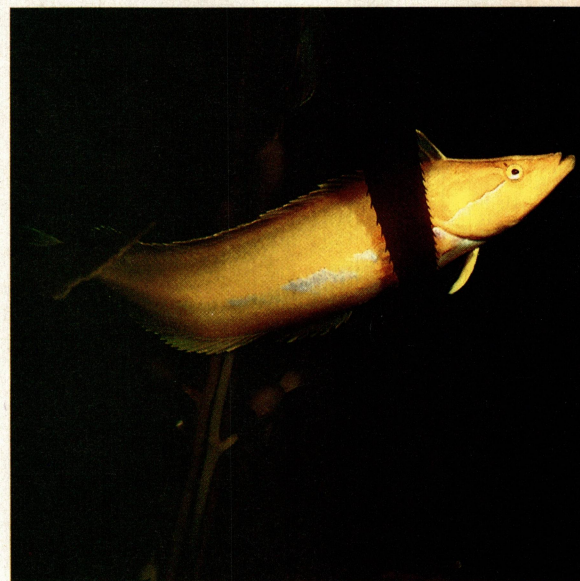
The following are some of the dive spots that stand out in this diver's mind:

PYRAMID HEAD

Combining scenic beauty topside and great diving, Pyramid Head is undoubtedly one of Clemente's best dive spots. Looking north and westward along the lee side, one is struck by the impressive cliff face rising high above the deep blue water. West along the Head itself, basaltic rock formations mark the water's edge before they slip beneath the surface. Underwater the scene continues, with the basaltic rock terminating in 30 foot drop-offs to the white sand below. These sandy areas form large alcoves or mini-bays underwater. Small caves can be found at the back of these and here spiny lobster and swell sharks make their homes. A good underwater light is necessary to penetrate the darkness.

Along the cliff itself, strawberry anemones (*Corynactis*) carpet the ledges and sponges dot the crevices. Looking up, one can see the kelp forest, at the top of the underwater bluff,

(Continued on Page 114)



This giant kelpfish assumes it is perfectly hidden.



photos/Thomas Cowell

A diver glides easily among sea palms and kelp.

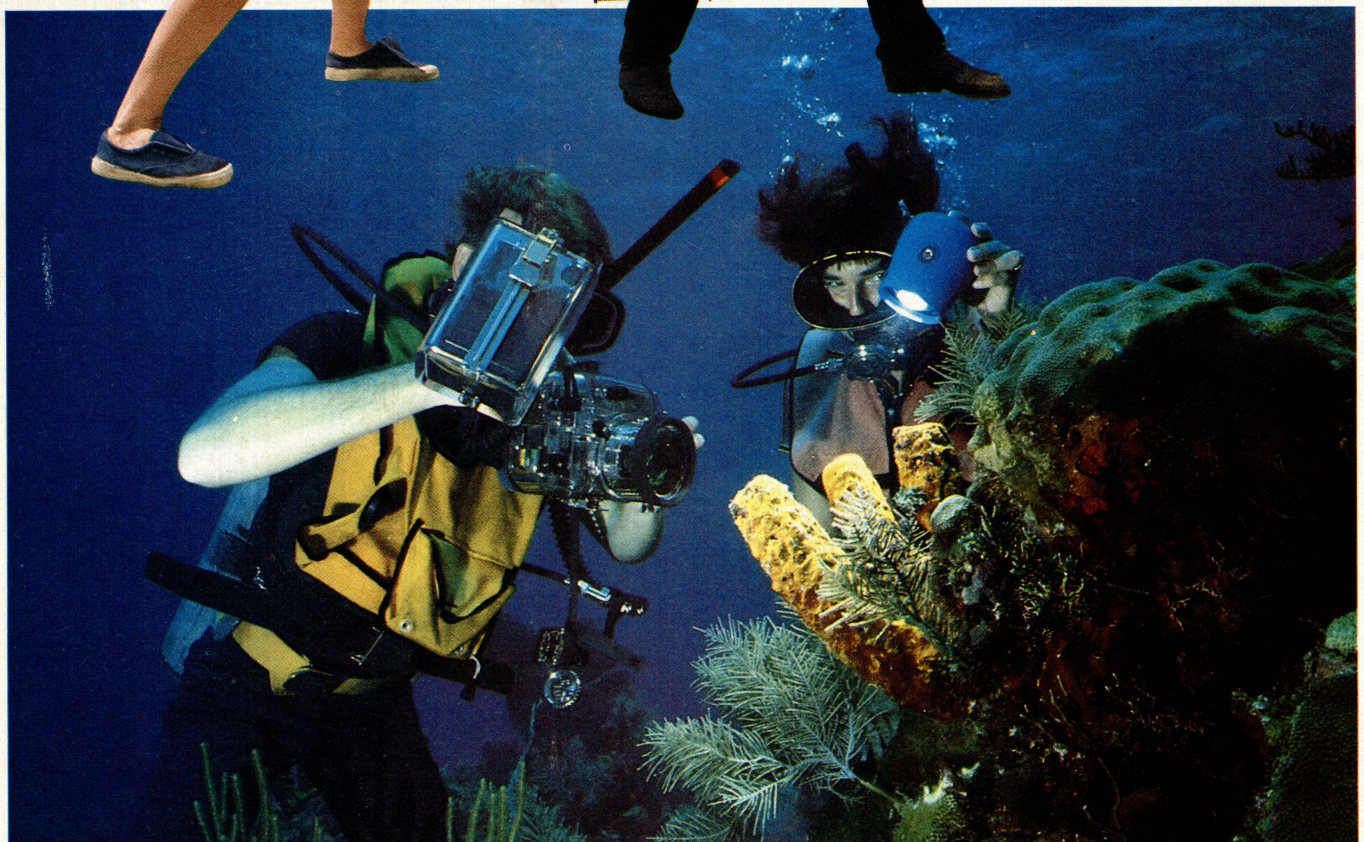
Gorgonians and orange sponges add color to this loop on the USS Butler which frames Marine Captain Hutchinson.

How To Be a Foto Flunky

Tips on training to be a photographic protégé

Text and Photography
By Jim and Cathy Church

Just because you're not an U/W photographer doesn't mean you have to be left out. Two people — a photographer and an assistant — can often take a better picture than a photographer working alone. Why do you suppose that we use both of our names in all of our photo credits? Regardless of who actually triggers the shutter, we work as a team to get our pictures. And in this article, we wish to share our teamwork techniques with you.





The ability to communicate underwater is a vital talent which every photo buddy should possess. Here Cathy uses an underwater slate, but hand signals and body language also work.

HELPING WITH EQUIPMENT

Helping with the camera equipment is an important job that doesn't even require dive skills. A pair of dry hands able to change film or batteries aboard a boat is invaluable! Simply knowing how to pick up a complicated camera/strobe system, how to hand it to the photographer, and how to take it back again are all important skills. Believe us, we've seen a lot of camera equipment damaged by untrained people who tried to be helpful. Ask the photographer to demonstrate exactly how he/she wants you to handle the equipment.

Scan through the owner's manuals for the equipment, but don't get hung up with numbers and specifications. Look for practical information such as how to change film or batteries and how to maintain the equipment. With a set of extension tubes (the photographer will tell you what these are), for example, learn which framers go with which tubes. If these are not marked, you might code them with colored tape. You don't have to be a mechanic or camera repairperson; just concentrate on one item at a time and learn slowly and carefully.

TIME AND DEPTH RECORDS

Another important job that doesn't require dive skills is keeping an accurate record of the photographer's bottom times and surface intervals. With some basic instruction, you can also learn to read the tables for no decompression and repetitive diving. Keeping a record of time, depth and the photographer's placement on the tables is important for diver safety. If you aren't a certified diver, we suggest that you double check the photographer's own calculations to reduce the possibility of an error.

FINDING SUBJECTS

If you're a diver, learn to be a spotter — you find the subjects and your partner photographs them. Begin by purchasing a non-technical book about the marine life in the area you dive. The photographer and/or local dive shop should be able to recommend one for you.

Find out ahead of time what size subjects the photographer wants, and limit your search to these. If you draw the photographer's attention to subjects that are too large or too small, your spotting is a hindrance rather than a help.

Once you find a good subject, the photographer may spend several minutes photographing it with different camera and lighting angles. Watch how he/she holds the strobe light — learning about lighting angles will make you more useful later.

A word of caution: Don't distract the photographer until he/she is finished with the subject. If you do interrupt to point out a new subject, be darn certain that it is more important than the one on which the photographer is working. In matters of dive safety, however, get the photographer's attention immediately.

BODY CONTROL

Body control is extremely important because just one kick of your fins could stir up enough sediment to ruin the photographer's picture. Make neutral buoyancy your goal: When you inhale, you should start to rise; and when you exhale, you should start to sink.

Resist the temptation to swim ahead of the photographer — kicking with all your might — if you see something interesting. Rather, stay to the photographer's side and slightly behind, so he/she can locate you with only a slight turn of the head. If

you do inadvertently get in front of the camera, don't freeze or frantically try to fin away. Relax, don't look at the camera, and move out of the scene slowly without stirring up the bottom.

WORKING WITH BAIT

If you can lure fish and other creatures to pose in front of the photographer's camera, you've got it made. Here's an example of how it's done: The photographer aims the camera at a pre-selected background, such as a group of yellow tube sponges, sets the camera controls and positions the strobe. You use small pieces of bait to lure the fish over to the sponges. And once the fish is in position, the photographer gets the picture.

Learning to use bait may take practice. At a resort, ask the divemaster for advice. Tell him/her that you want something small, that won't dominate the picture. Bread tends to cloud the water, and left-over scraps of bacon or sausage coat your fingers with grease. A chicken leg-bone, however, has possibilities. Wipe the lower end of the bone clean and use it as a handle. The fish can go after the scraps at the other end, and you can pull the bait out of the way just before the photographer triggers the shutter.

Small pieces of fish, or lobster scraps, may also be available. Try using tiny pieces (about the size of a small pea) which you store in a plastic film canister. Fill the excess space in the canister with water after stuffing it with bait. This prevents the canister from floating away, and the bait won't all woosh out when you remove the lid underwater.

HANDLING SMALL CREATURES

You can use the tip of a snorkel or another thin, flexible aid to coax creatures from beneath ledges — but under no circumstances do we recommend using a knife or other tool that could harm the creature. Even with the snorkel tip, you don't push — you invade the creature's space so it retreats in the direction you want it to go. Remember: Coax the creatures out, don't pry them. Not only is this easier on the creature, but if legs and antenna are missing or mangled, the picture will be distressing to view. Some dive guides can give excellent advice and help find and handle creatures. However, if the guide breaks urchins at an established dive site, we find it difficult to believe he/she really cares about delicate sealife. Lastly, if you move a creature to pose it for a picture, return it to its exact original location. Any deviation could result in death or injury for your tiny model. We often use a spare snorkel to mark the site.

LEARNING TO POSE

U/W photographers often want models, but posing for a spouse can be nerve-wracking if you are uptight about it. If the photographer is using a

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FOTO FLUNKY

wide-angle lens (ask him/her about this), it might be easiest to start as a background diver in U/W scenics. And for closer pictures, when you are the primary subject, try to be doing something. You can be feeding fish or simply looking at marine life. The main thing is to not stare at the camera.

To improve your modeling abilities, look back through your past issues of SDM and see what poses the models used. See how they aligned their bodies with coral or rock formations, kelp stalks, or sunken wreckage. See how they interacted with the undersea life. Select those poses that you liked, and which you could do, and copy them. Yes, copy them! You can be innovative later, after you've had some experience.

Knowing where you should be in the picture, and what you should be doing, is vital to your success as a model. Four basic methods we use when Cathy is posing for Jim are as follows:

1. Jim usually draws stick figure sketches which we discuss before entering the water. This works best when you are familiar with the U/W terrain.

2. For wide-angle scenic shots, Cathy looks through the viewfinder at the background Jim has selected. This gives her a feeling for the scene, and she can pose more realistically.

3. For position in wide-angle pictures, Cathy watches her reflection in Jim's dome port and his hand signals during the setup; being careful to look away as the shot is taken.

4. Closer, we use both hand signals and notes written on a slate.

U/W COMMUNICATION

Hand signals must be specific. If the photographer wants your fins to be higher in the picture, for example, he/she can touch his/her own fins and then point upward. The message being: fins higher. The exact body angle can be indicated by the slant of the photographer's forearm. Pointing at the model's fins, and then upward, sounds simpler; however, the model doesn't always know what the photographer is pointing at — fins, ocean bottom or something in the background.

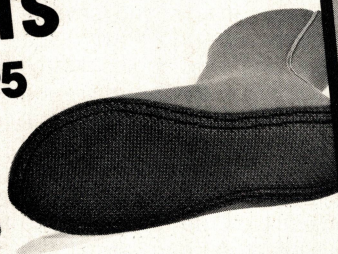
A slate can be used two ways: Begin by writing a standard set of questions and responses on one side ahead of time. Underwater, you can simply point to the prewritten message. You can use the other side for additional information.

Before long, you'll find that the most frequently used messages will be sent with the eyes, body language and abbreviated hand signals. The more elaborate hand signals and slate will be used for the least common and more complex messages.

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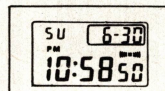
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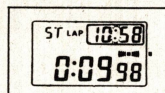
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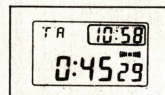
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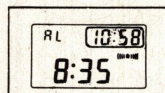
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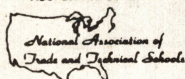
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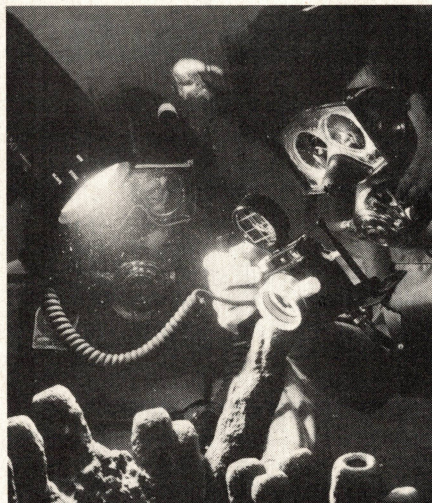
DIVE EQUIPMENT

Attractive dive gear helps produce attractive pictures. Blue and yellow equipment photographs well with either strobe or sunlight, but red usually needs strobe lighting to bring out its richness. Again, look through your past issues of SDM to see which equipment and colors are most pleasing to you.

You needn't spend a fortune on exotic equipment — simplicity is often best. Be sure, however, to wear the safety equipment that is appropriate for the area in which you will be diving. Be sure that all straps are adjusted properly and the loose ends are tucked in.

HELPING WITH LIGHTING

Lighting is an area where you can really shine. If you can hold a strobe, you've freed one of the photographer's hands for bracing on the bottom or camera han-



While the assistant holds the strobe, the photographer has a free hand for bracing.

dling. Yes, strobes can be mounted on adjustable arms, but the movement is limited. If the photographer can simply reach out and aim the strobe — the one you are holding — his/her job will be much easier.

When taking close-ups with a Nikons, for example, the photographer may prefer a two-hand grip to steady the camera. This is especially true if the camera must be held motionless for several minutes while the photographer waits for a hermit crab to emerge from its shell, or for a featherduster to blossom. If you can hold the strobe, you've become an important part of the team. And, as you begin to develop a feeling for lighting angles and strobe-to-subject distances, you'll find that you are actually enjoying underwater photography.

If the photographer uses two strobes,
(Continued on Page 115)

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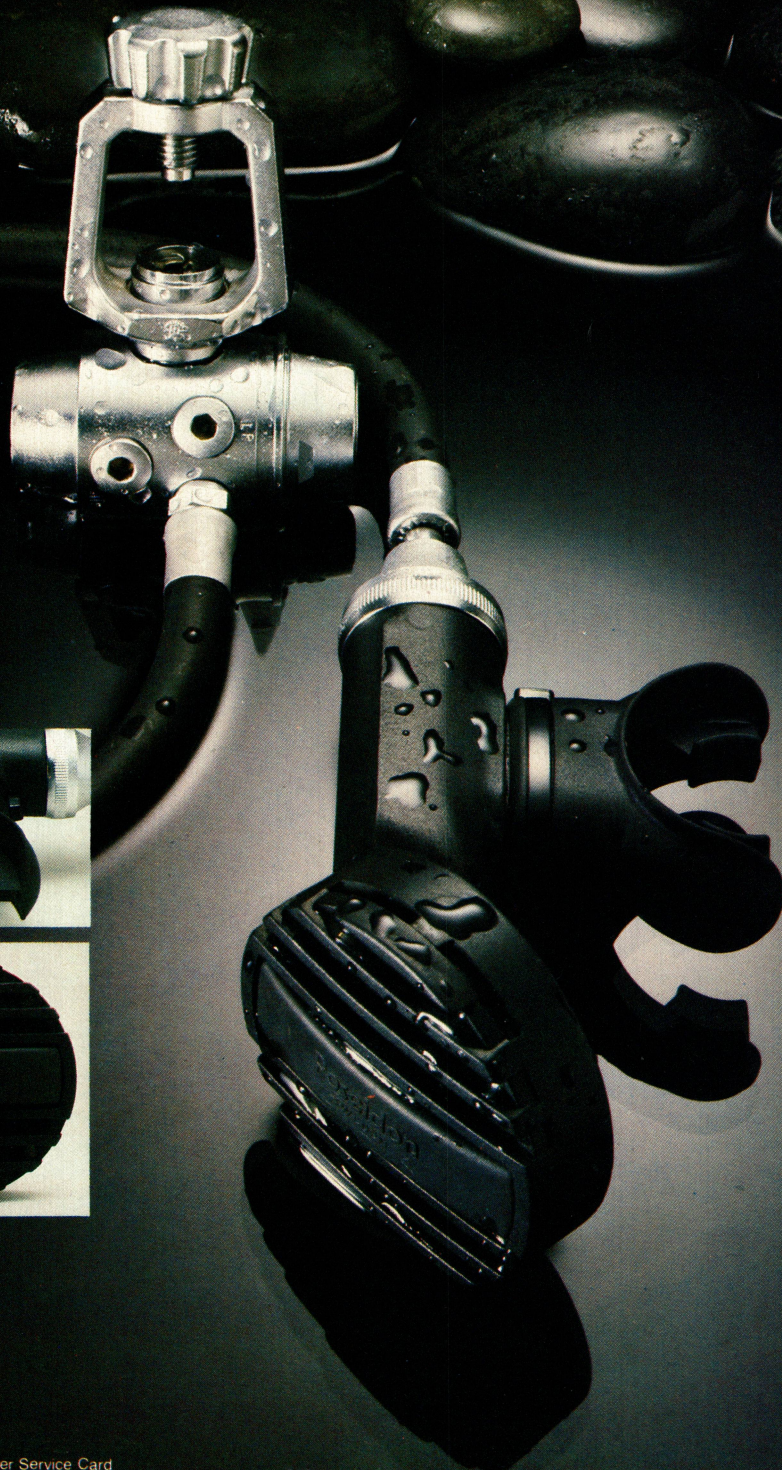
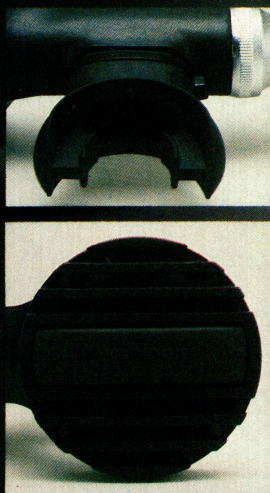
- The Maximum's unique purge valve (*not* a button) is designed for use with any mitt or glove...even the back of your hand can activate it. You don't have to depress it below the case.

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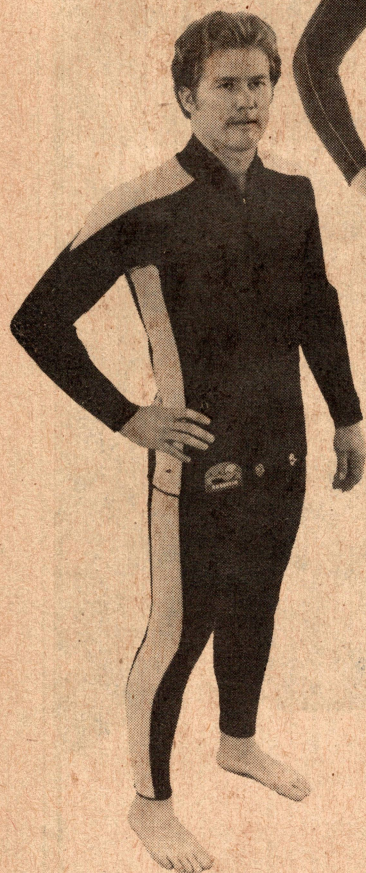




how to buy a **WETSUIT**

text and photography
by Marty Snyderman

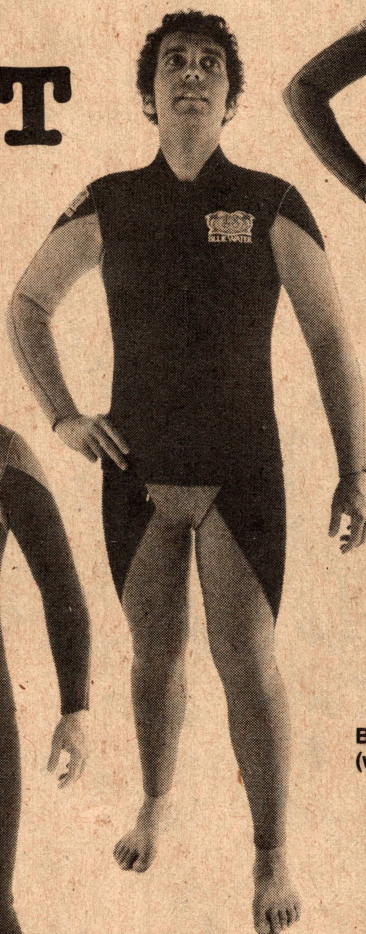
WETSUIT



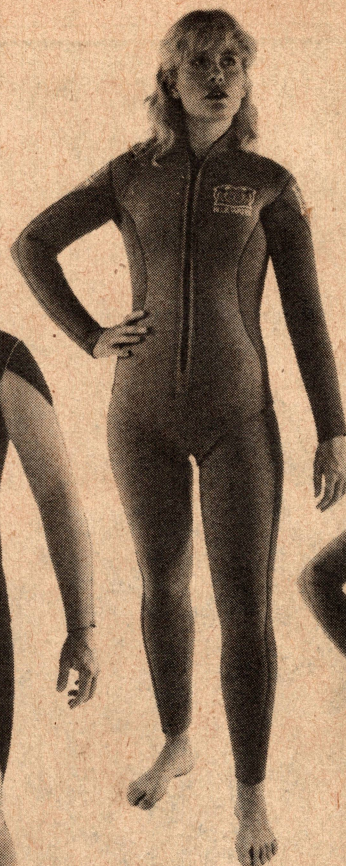
Bareskin, Supercut



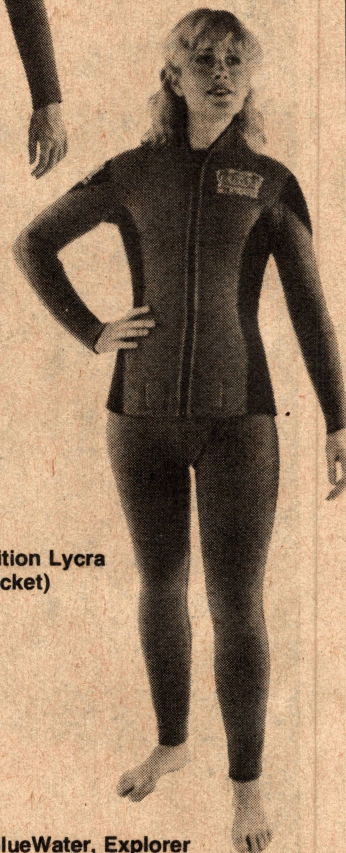
BlueWater, Competition Lycra



BlueWater, Striker



**BlueWater, Competition Lycra
(with French Cut Jacket)**



BlueWater, Explorer

Only a decade or so ago buying a wetsuit was much simpler than it is today. In those days all you had to do was drop into your local dive store and tell the salesman you needed a suit. The salesman suggested you find one on the rack that looked the right size and try it on. The one that fit the best became your new wetsuit. Such things as the type of diving you did, the quality of the rubber you desired, and the accessories you preferred never even entered into the conversation. You really didn't have much in the way of

choices, buying a suit was somewhat of a take it or leave it affair.

Not so today! Now we have a lot of choices in the selection of a wetsuit. More sophisticated technology, the growth of sport diving, the response by manufacturers to the specific needs of today's divers, and other factors have led to the wide variety of wetsuits on the market. What it all boils down to is this: Today it is possible to choose a wetsuit that matches your specific personal needs.

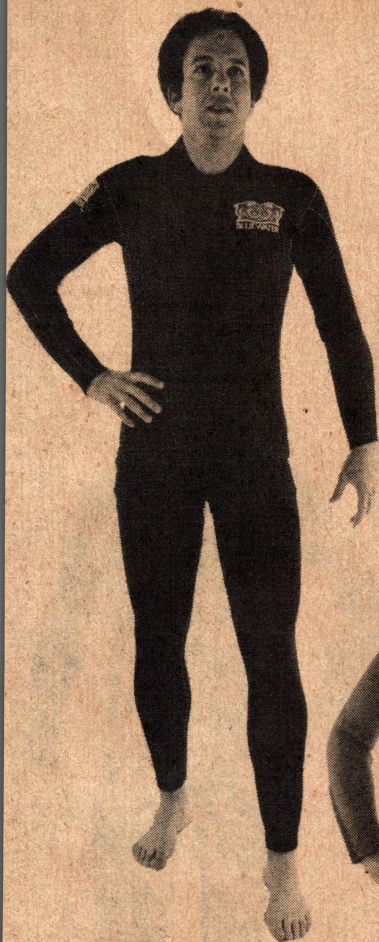
There is a catch, however. At present there are more suits with more options than ever before. Every year progressive manufacturers refine their product line. In most cases the alterations are only slight, but in others, the changes could more correctly be called overhauls. The purpose of this article is to provide you with

the necessary background information about full-body wetsuits so you can buy the one or ones that best suit your needs.

We'll start by reviewing the theories about how wetsuits work and why we need them. Then we'll take a look at how the various models are made. With a basic knowledge of the concepts and terminology in hand, we'll get to the most important part. That is, selecting the suit that is best for you. Helpful hints about care and maintenance will wrap things up and by then you will be well aware that there is a lot more to wetsuits than just small, medium or large.

PURPOSE OF A WETSUIT

A well made, properly fitting wetsuit can greatly extend the length of time you can enjoy the aquatic world. Notice I said enjoy, not endure. The right suit will easily make that kind of difference, keeping you warm while leaving you free to have fun. A wetsuit keeps you warm by allowing a thin layer of water to enter the space between your body and the suit. Body heat warms this water layer and the water, in



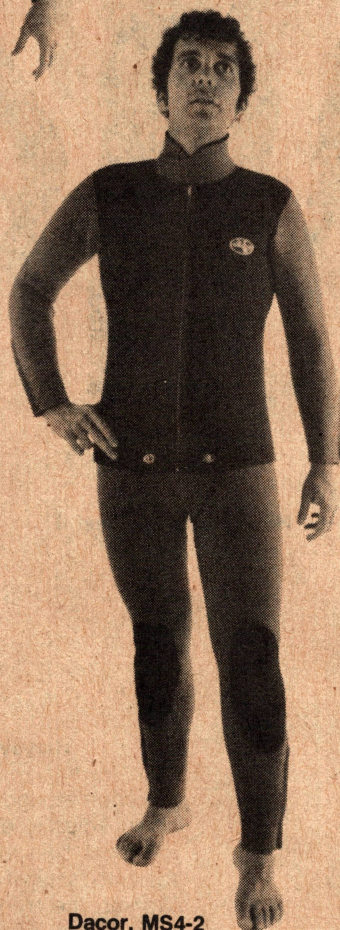
BlueWater, SN 42



Dancart, Bolero



Fathom, 1231DV



Dacor, MS4-2



Fathom, 1235

turn, helps keep the diver warm (if this water doesn't constantly flow in and out of the wetsuit). Wetsuits serve as an insulator, preventing the body from losing heat.

Why is it so much more difficult to stay comfortably warm in water than on land? The answer is simple: Water absorbs body heat about 25 times faster than air. U.S. Navy tests conclude that a water temperature of 91°F is necessary to allow humans at rest to maintain a stable body temperature. In 75°F water, most divers will begin to chill significantly in just over an hour. In 40°F water, people without wetsuits have died in less than one hour.

Aside from warmth, today's sport divers have other needs wetsuits fill. Wetsuits not only help maintain the body's thermal balance but will also serve as a

shield against cuts, scrapes, stinging organisms, and as a cushion for straps and backpack.

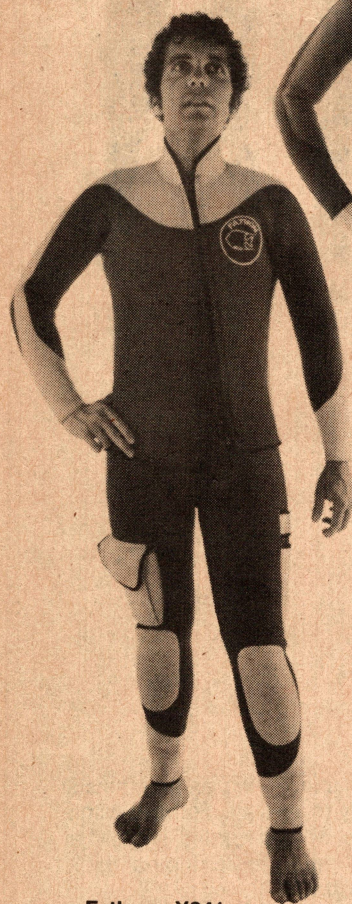
SUIT CONSTRUCTION

Wetsuits are made from several types of rubber. Most are closed cell, foam neoprene, either gas or chemically blown. This is a flexible material with thousands of small gas-filled bubbles that provide insulation. Until recently, almost everyone agreed that gas blown neoprene was superior to chemically blown. In this process nitrogen gas is forced, under pressure, into natural rubber. The resulting product was much more supple and had a better memory than chemically made foam. Supple means easily pliable, not extremely soft. Overly soft rubber will compress so

much, even in shallow water, that the suit loses its ability to insulate. Rubber with a good memory will compress slightly at depth but will return to its original thickness at the surface.

Chemically blown neoprene is created by heating chunks of solid chemicals in a vat full of natural rubber. When the chemicals melt, gases are formed which create the closed cells in the neoprene. There used to be little question that chemically blown rubber was more brittle and therefore inferior to gas blown. But chemically blown was also less expensive. Recent technological advances, however, have greatly increased the quality of chemically blown neoprene. Today, many manufacturers use some type of chemically blown rubber in their wetsuit lines. It often takes an expert to detect the differ-

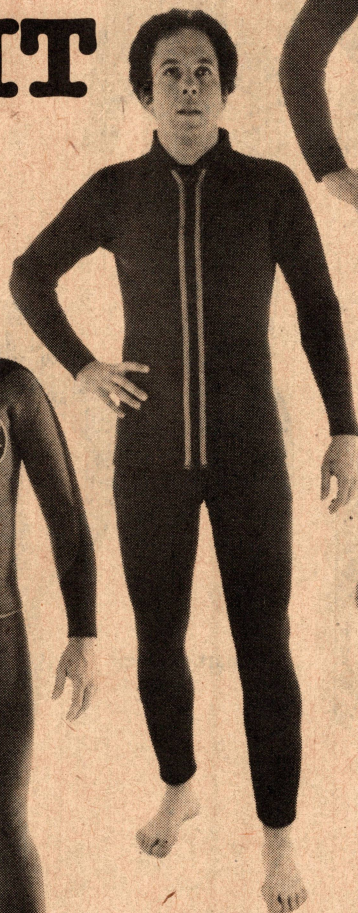
WETSUIT



Fathom, Y241



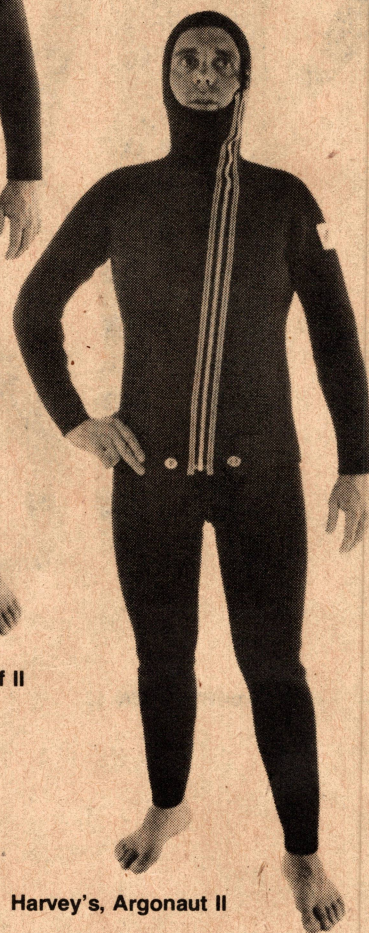
Fathom, J231



Fathom, 0231



Harvey's, Super Reef II



Harvey's, Argonaut II

ence between good quality gas blown and good quality chemically blown rubber.

Although neoprene rubber is an excellent insulator, it is not very durable. In order to increase the durability of their wetsuits, all manufacturers back the rubber with a layer of nylon, Lycra, Spandex or a similar material. If the rubber is backed on only one side the material is referred to as nylon 1, Lycra 1, or skin one-side. Skin refers to the non-backed neoprene side. If material is backed or

laminated on both sides, the suit is said to be nylon 2, Lycra 2, or nylon/Lycra which means nylon on one side and Lycra on the other. At present, most wetsuits have at least one side laminated for protection. Nylon 1 suits are generally worn with the nylon on the outside and the skin inside. This provides durability where it is needed most.

When trying to compare nylon to Lycra you should know that Lycra stretches equally in all directions. Nylon stretches much better with the grain than across it. If the suit you are considering uses a nylon backing, figure out which way the suit stretches most easily. A gentle pull should tell you. Breathing is easier if the nylon stretches around your chest rather than up and down. The same is true for the muscles in your legs. Nylon that

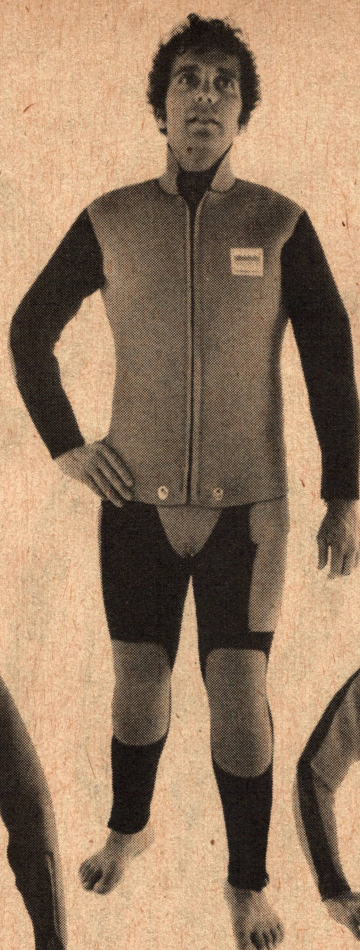
stretches around your legs will allow the leg muscles to expand and contract as you kick. Beavertails, however, will be easier to fasten if they stretch lengthwise. Aligning the nylon in such a manner is more expensive, and if offered it is a feature well worth paying for.

In addition to nylon and Lycra, a new plush nylon with four way stretch has come onto the scene. Many instructors claim that plush lined suits are easier to put on and take off. Because of its tendency to snag, plush material is used only on the inside of a suit.

Another factor that should be considered is the color of the laminated layer. Different colors mean different thicknesses of the weave in the backing. The thicker the weave of the nylon or Lycra, the less flexible your suit will be. Black is the most flexible. Also, suits with black linings tend to last longer than suits of other colors. After black, blue is next in terms of flexibility. Red and orange are the least flexible. If color is important to you, as it is to many divers, you might not notice the difference in stretch. But peo-



Harvey's, High Tide



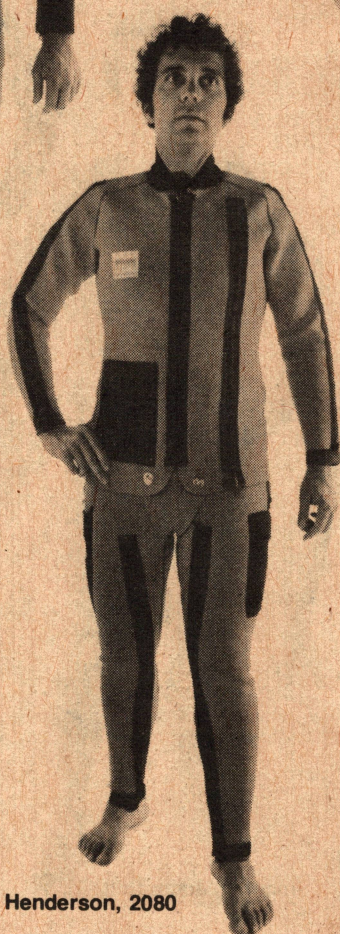
Henderson, 435



Henderson, M100-2



Henderson, M102



Henderson, 2080

ple with small arms, wrists, and ankles often find that trying to pull on a one-quarter inch nylon 2, all red suit is more of a chore than they care to take on. Even some bigger people object. Women and small men take heed! In addition, people whose weight fluctuates considerably should consider the advantage of nylon 1 suits. While no wetsuit stretches too much, it is true that nylon 1 suits will accommodate greater weight fluctuations than will nylon 2.

HARDWARE

You might be a little surprised to see a subheading entitled hardware, but almost every wetsuit made utilizes at least one zipper, and many models offer wrist zippers, ankle zippers and twist locks as well. There are more to zippers than

where they are placed and how many are needed. Wetsuit zippers are made out of at least four different materials: aluminum, brass, nickel/silver (a plated brass), and several types of plastic. Most manufacturers use plated brass or the new plastic styles in their top-of-the-line suits. While these zippers are a little more expensive than other models, they often hold up better under arduous conditions. Well made plated brass zippers do not rust: the plating is highly resistant to corrosion. As with all metal zippers, it is a good idea to lubricate those of plated brass with silicone spray at least every half dozen dives.

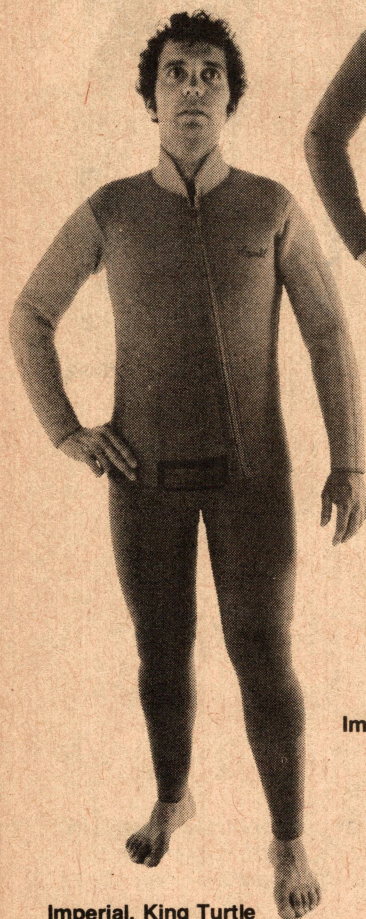
The least expensive wetsuit zippers are made of aluminum, and while money might be saved at the date of purchase, you should be aware that aluminum will

corrode rather quickly in salt water. Unplated brass is more expensive than aluminum but less expensive than plated brass.

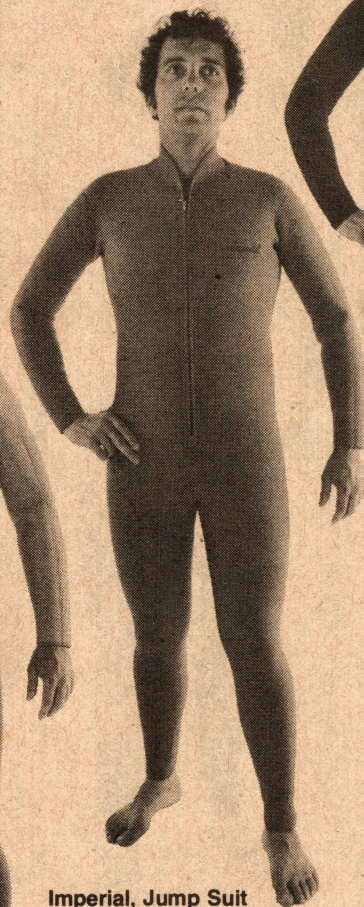
Plastic zippers are usually referred to by the names YKK, Vislon, or Delrin. YKK is the name of the company that manufactures Delrin zippers. These zippers have teeth made from a light, but durable plastic, not nylon as is commonly believed. Plastic does not absorb water, thus the teeth of these zippers do not swell in the water. The zipper slide is often made from a non-corrosive plated metal. Some manufacturers claim that plastic zippers will last the lifetime of your suit with reasonable care. Metal zippers can last the lifetime as well, but they will require more maintenance.

Wrist and ankle zippers have both ad-

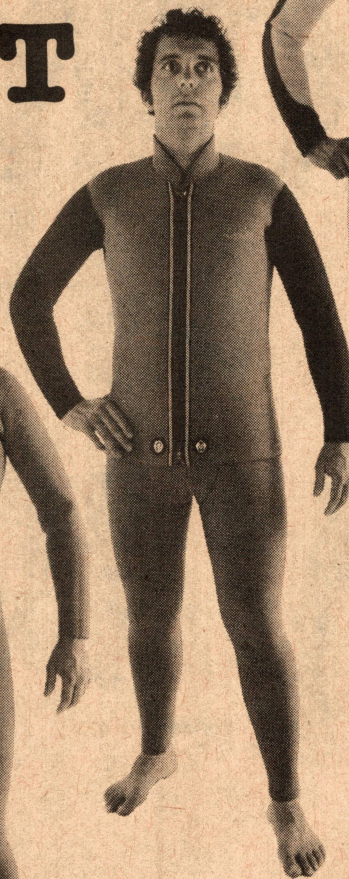
WETSUIT



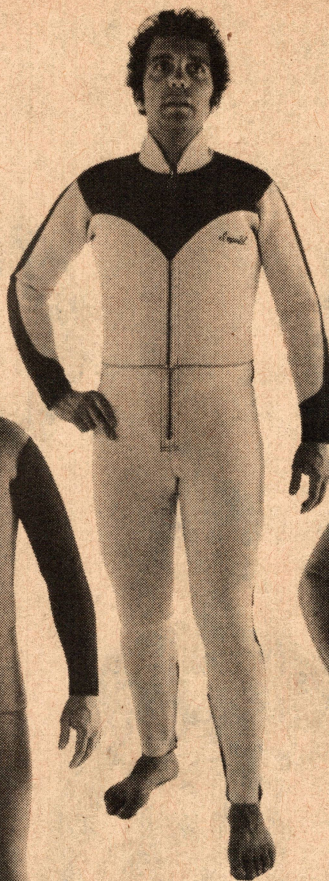
Imperial, King Turtle



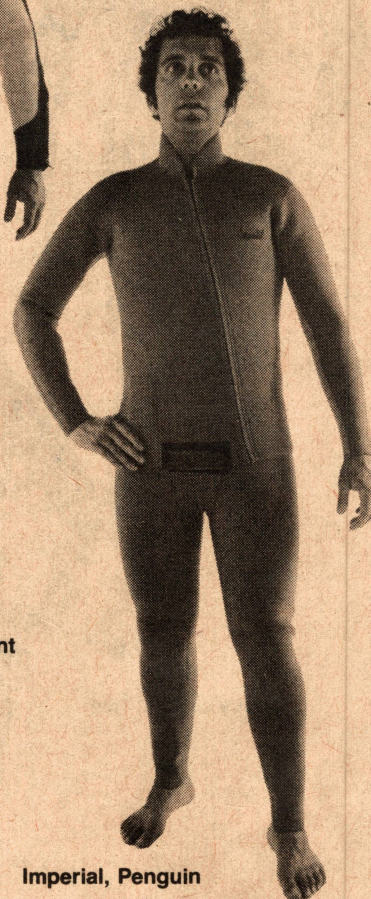
Imperial, Jump Suit



Imperial, Baron



Imperial, Viscount



Imperial, Penguin

vantages and disadvantages. They make your suit easier to put on and take off. This is especially true if you have large hands and comparatively small wrists and large feet and rather small ankles. The thicker your wetsuit, the more important ankle and wrist zippers become. However, your suit will be more expensive and need more maintenance. Also, all zippers will leak through the teeth, which is why they are backed with a neoprene flap. The thicker and wider the flap, the less the leakage will be noticed.

Twist locks are used on the beavertail

of the jacket on many two piece wetsuits. As a rule, twist locks are made of plated metal. Easy-to-use velcro closures replace twist locks on some suits.

SEAMS

While consumers often tend to pay more attention to the cut or color of a wetsuit, many instructors will tell you that the "quality of a wetsuit centers around the integrity of the seams." Some of them have probably suffered through the frustration of having their suits self-destruct during a dive, owing to poor seam construction.

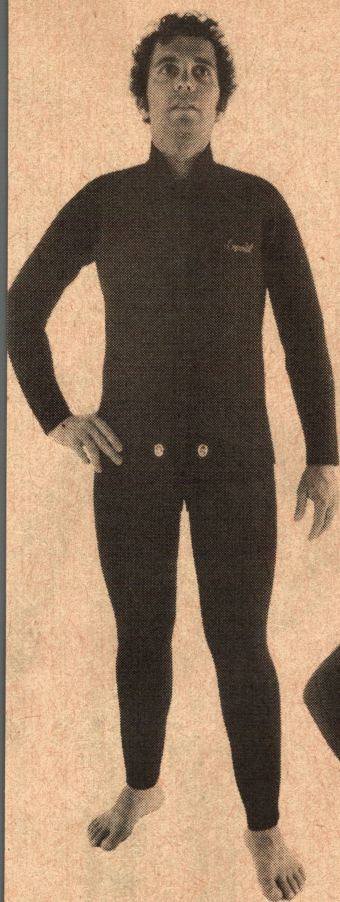
Factors to be considered when examining seams are: how they are glued and sewn; whether they are straight or curved; how many there are; and how they come together. Unlike drysuit seams which are sometimes only glued together

or partially sewn, a superior bond in a wetsuit seam is both glued and sewn. The strongest seams are double or triple-primed, which means that the edges were coated with either two or three layers of glue before joining, resulting in a superior bond.

Considerable durability is added when the seam is sewn as well as glued. Interlocking stitches provide a stronger seam than zig-zag but zig-zag stitches are less expensive. An important extra is a welded or bar-tacked seam — this means that the thread at the end of the seam is glued and sewn into place. The weld will discourage the end of the seam from starting to run.

Even if a coat of glue is placed over the stitches, in time the seam of a wetsuit will leak. This is owing to the pinhole openings in the neoprene caused by the combination of the needle and the pulling and stretching of the thread during normal use. Seams will leak considerably less if the stitching penetrates only part way through the neoprene. Less leakage means you will stay warmer!

Stitches are used to bond the neoprene laminate of one panel to the backing



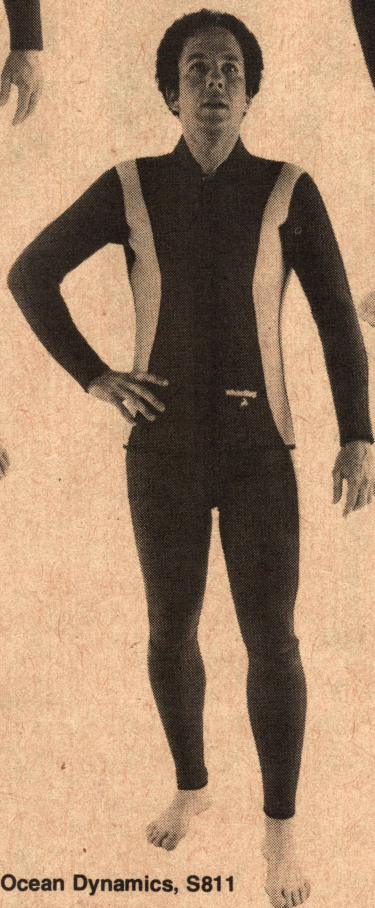
Imperial, Sitka



Ocean Dynamics, S561



Ocean Dynamics, S491G



Ocean Dynamics, S811



Ocean Dynamics, S470

of an adjacent panel. Sewing into the rubber itself does little to create a permanent bond because the neoprene tears so easily. A seam that is sewn partially through on both the inside and outside of the suit will be at least as strong as a seam that is sewn all the way through and it will definitely not leak as much.

Curved seams, as a rule, will hold up longer than straight seams. For mathematical reasons, the curve in a seam will tend to isolate the stress in the area where it is caused rather than transferring it throughout the seam. This isolation prevents stress from being passed to areas where a number of seams join. In areas such as the crotch, where a number of seams come together, this can be an important consideration. Suits with a straight seam or a diamond crotch can be as effective as those with curved

seams, especially if additional stitching is used or the seam is slightly lengthened.

The number of seams a suit has is another important consideration. Every time you add a panel to a wetsuit you must also add at least one seam. More panels can mean more colors and added flair but they also mean more maintenance and less flexibility. It should be noted that in one-eighth inch thick suits the lack of flexibility is not usually noticed as much as in one-quarter inch suits.

ACCESSORIES

The category of wetsuit accessories is almost endless. A discussion about these can get rather tricky because something that is an accessory on some suits might be standard on others. Knee pads are a case in point. To most divers, knee pads are well worth having and some manufac-

turers consider them a standard item. As with the various optional pockets and pads, knee pads are most easily added to a suit with nylon or Lycra on the outside. This is because it is only possible to sew the nylon (Lycra) of an accessory to the laminate of the suit. While the list of potential options is quite long, it should be noted that most divers find at least one pocket, knee pads, and a knife sheath to be rather useful.

A spine pad is another option that should be considered especially if you dive in cold water. This is a strip of neoprene that goes on the inside of your suit to fill the spinal groove in your back. It helps prevent chafing from a backpack and also prevents a cold water exchange in this part of your suit everytime you exhale or twist your body. Spine pads are lifesavers for some divers while others

WETSUIT



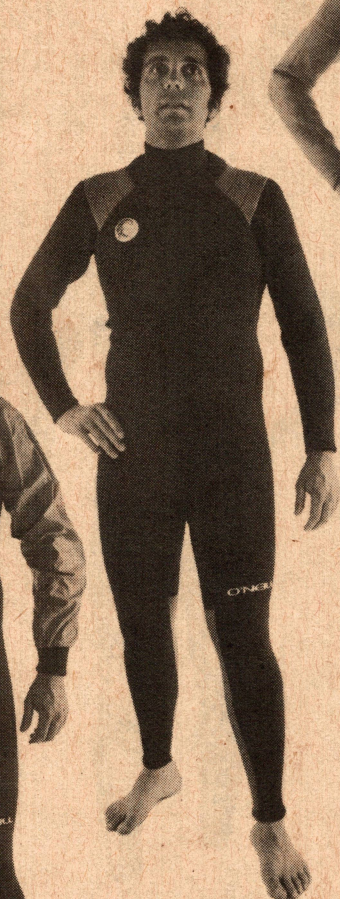
O'Neill, The 360

find them unnecessary.

CHOOSING A SUIT

Certainly this is the most important section of this article. There are a number of factors you need to coordinate when you try to determine which suit is best for you.

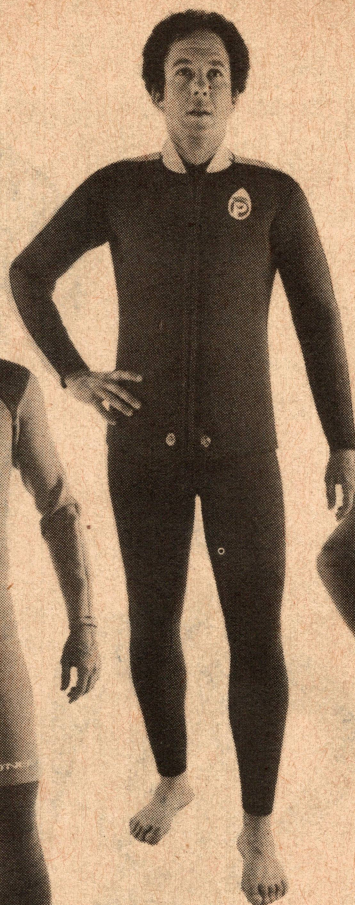
As with accessories, at first glance there appears to be an almost endless variety of wetsuits. Some are one piece, others two or more. Some have waist high pants. Others, called farmer johns, are vested like overalls giving protection to your torso as well as your legs. Farmer



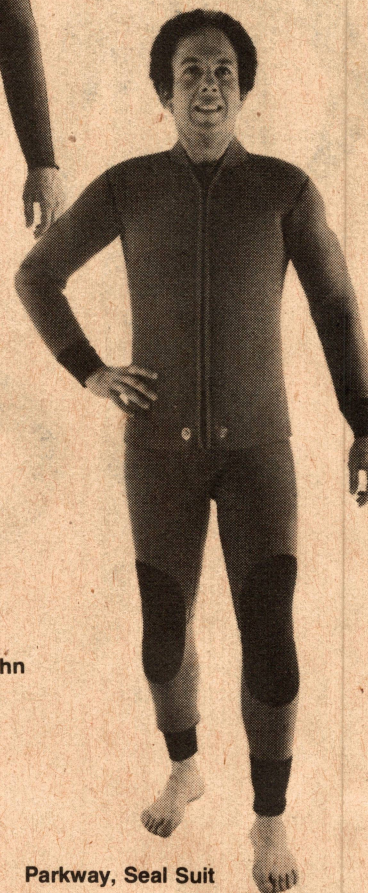
O'Neill, Super Full



O'Neill, Winter Sun



Parkway, Farmer-John



Parkway, Seal Suit

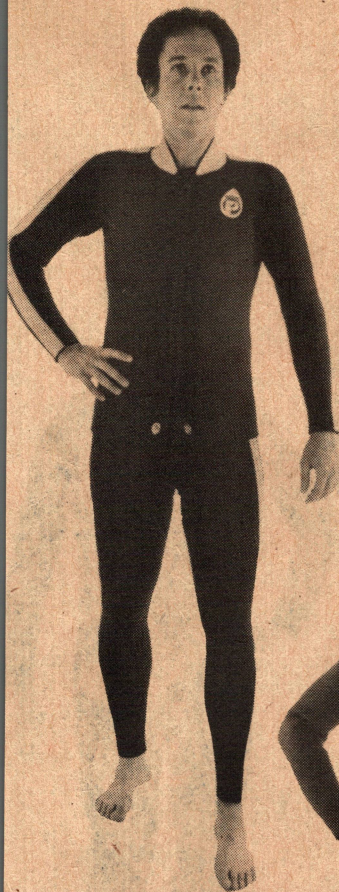
janes are cut slightly differently to fit women. And while most manufacturers give their suits names, others prefer to stick to catalog numbers. The number of manufacturers involved, the variations in their products, and the terminology can combine to make the process of selection rather intimidating. A little closer look will, however, reveal that while the fine points may vary greatly, there are only a few significant differences in the major cuts. While there are a number of shortie suits available for diving as well as for sports such as surfing and water skiing, the scope of this article deals only with full wetsuits intended for scuba diving.

Two piece farmer john style suits undoubtedly provide more thermal protection than either a two piece waist high cut or a one piece full body. That assumes the suits are of the same thickness and fit

equally well. If you do a lot of diving in water below 70°F; stay underwater comparatively long; make a lot of dives; and consider being warm a high priority, then a farmer john cut is well worth considering. If staying warm is not a major concern, but additional comfort is, then consider the two piece, waist high models. One piece suits are often preferred by divers who dive in tropical areas and by heavier divers. One piece suits are the easiest to doff and don as well as to pack.

Navy tests conclude that divers who are heavyset or stocky will remain significantly warmer for longer periods than will divers with slighter builds. Matching your suit selection to your build is a factor that should not be overlooked! Just because a friend who dives in the same water you dive in is happy with his or her suit does not mean that it is the right one for you.

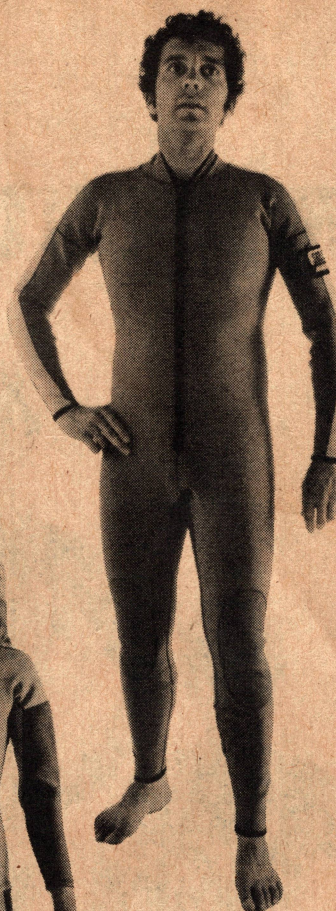
Obviously, water temperature is an important consideration. The colder the water, the thicker your wetsuit should be and the better your suit needs to fit if you expect to stay warm. Most wetsuits made are offered in one-eighth, three-sixteenths and one-quarter inch thick-



Parkway, Deluxe Hi-Waist



Scubapro, Proflex



SeaSuits, 120 Series



Parkway, The Northern Suit



SeaSuits, Women's French Cut

nesses. Some manufacturers, generally those who are using imported neoprene, provide thickness measurements in the metric scale. Divers in tropical areas generally find one-eighth inch suits ideal for their needs. In areas where water temperature is near 70°F, a three-sixteenth inch suit will often suffice, and for places where water temperatures are below 70°F, one-quarter inch suits are usually preferred. These are not hard and fast rules. Variations in a diver's build, surface conditions, and dive activity can make major differences in suit preference. Remember the following points. The deeper you dive the colder the water. The water at 100 feet isn't necessarily as warm as the surface.

FIT

Equally as important as design and

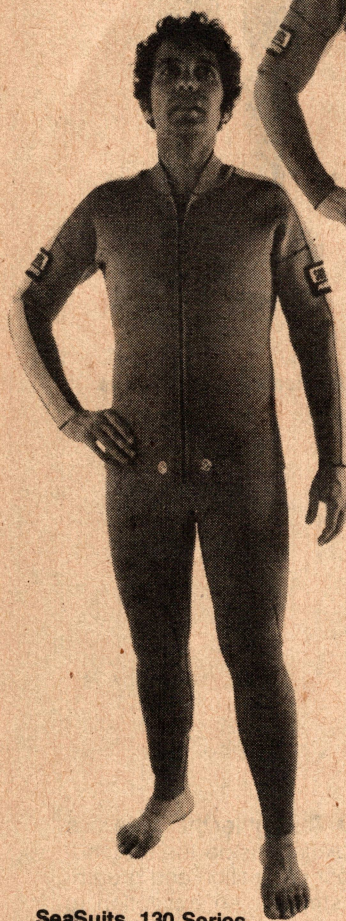
thickness is the fit of your suit. The key point to remember is that wetsuits are designed to fit differently than any other article of clothing! And, wetsuits are designed to fit and feel the best when you are underwater, not when you are standing in front of a mirror topside. Many suits are cut so that you are most comfortable in a swim position as opposed to standing upright. This swim or dive posture is a position in which your knees are slightly bent, your neck is forward, your shoulders are slightly hunched and rolled forward, and your arms are down along your sides. A properly fitting suit will restrict the movement of your arms if you try to reach above your head. This somewhat confined posture is the position we most often find ourselves in underwater and that is where your suit needs to do its job!

A properly fitting wetsuit will feel tight,

but not too tight. The tighter the fit the less the water circulation inside the suit, but be sure that your circulation and breathing are not restricted. An exception to the tight fit is in the neck area. The fit here is especially critical and should be looser. A wetsuit will become unbearably uncomfortable in a matter of seconds if it is too tight in the neck, restricting blood flow and breathing. In colder water a high cut turtleneck style collar can add to diver warmth. And too, an adjustable velcro closure on the collar can help prevent the neck from being uncomfortably tight or so loose that water is constantly entering your suit.

How can you tell if your suit fits? Try these tests. With the entire suit in place hold your arms straight out in front of you. Try to turn your arms inside the suit. If your arms spin free inside the suit, it is proba-

WETSUIT



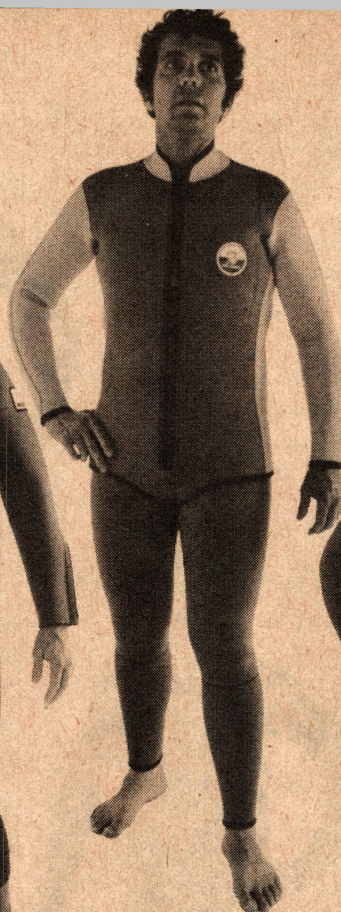
SeaSuits, 130 Series



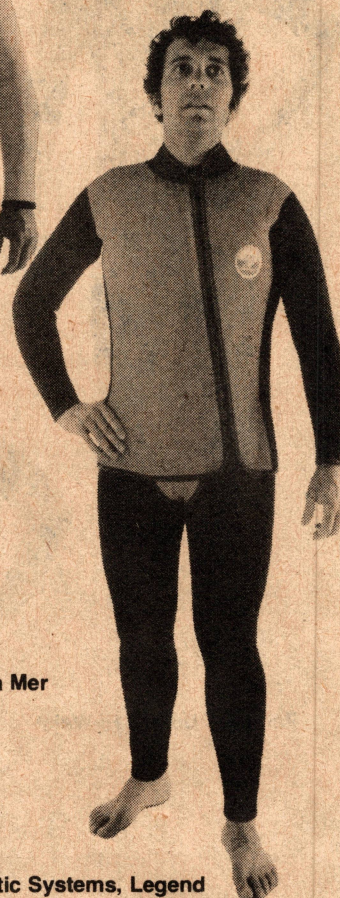
SeaSuits, Century Dive Suit



SubAqua Specialties, 957-1721



Sub-Aquatic Systems, La Mer



Sub-Aquatic Systems, Legend

bly too loose. If not, the jacket is at least tight enough. Next, leave the suit on for at least five minutes. Check the circulation in your hands. If the circulation is restricted, the sleeves are too tight. If your circulation is normal, the jacket will probably serve your purposes, as long as the rest of the jacket fits the general contour of your torso. There should be no gaps where you can easily grab handfuls of rubber. You should be able to grab a small pinch of rubber, but not a handful. Key areas to apply this pinch test are your spine, lower back, crotch, thighs and calves. Too much material in the crotch of

your suit can cause it to pinch you during your dive; too much material in the back of your knees will cause chaffing. Also consider the wrists and ankles. They should be tapered to fit close to your body because a little flare can mean water being pumped into your suit every time you reach or kick.

In both one piece suits and farmer johns, be sure that you can stand up without feeling too much restriction. Your suit must be long enough between your crotch and shoulders to provide a feeling of comfort. Suits that are too short can usually be altered for a nominal fee.

Another major, but often overlooked, point is that you should always be sure to try on your wetsuit while wearing the bathing suit you will use when you dive. This is especially important for women.

Almost all of us can be fitted with a rack or 'stock suit. The colder the water, the

slighter your build, the more you move underwater, and the longer your diving day, the more important the perfect fit becomes. Custom wetsuits are, of course, more expensive than stock suits. In many cases, with minor and comparatively inexpensive alterations, rack suits will fit just fine. If, however, you want the most durable, top-of-the-line suit, consulting the people in your dive store is a good idea. Generally speaking, the quality of custom wetsuits is superior to stock suits.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The care and maintenance of your wetsuit will be of major importance in determining its life. It is easy, but unlike most items whose maintenance begins after you dive, the care of your wetsuit begins while you are putting it on. Wetsuits are specifically designed to take the stresses of diving but they are not made to be pulled and stretched when dressing and undressing. This is especially true of the seams. A few, easy to follow habits will greatly prolong the life of your suit. When you are dressing, be certain that all zippers are fully open. Work the suit on at a leisurely pace by using the palms and pads of your hands, not your fingers and

WETSUIT MANUFACTURERS

MANUFACTURER	MODEL NAME/CAT. #	CUT	THICKNESS (inches)	COLORS	RUBBER BACKING	ZIPPER MAT'L/BEAVER TAIL	RETAIL PRICE
Bareskin Products	Supercut	wh or fj	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various combinations	N2	Plated metal/Twist locks	\$291.00 +
BlueWater Wetsuits	Competition Lycra	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Various combinations	L, N, and S	Plastic/None	\$225.50-315.50
	Striker	wh or fj	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various combinations	L, N, and S	Plastic/Velcro	\$229.50-265.50
	Explorer	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Various combinations	N2	Plastic/Velcro	\$189.50-219.50
	SN 42	fj	1/4	Various colors	N/S	Plastic/Velcro	\$224.50 +
	LS 42	fj	1/4	Various colors	L/S	Plastic/Velcro	\$280.00 +
Dacor Corp.	MS4-2	wh	1/4	Black/blue	N2	Plated metal/Twist locks	\$240.00
Dancart Corp.	Bolero	fj	1/8	Blue with various stripes	L/P	Plastic/None	\$290.00
Fathom	Diver 1235	wh	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various colors	N2	Plastic/Twist locks	\$193.60 +
	Diver 1231DV	wh	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various colors	L/P	Plastic/Velcro	\$318.40 +
	Super Lycra Suit Y241	fj	3/16, 1/4	Navy, silver	L2	Plastic/Velcro	\$398.00 +
	Jump-In-Jac J231	wh	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various colors	N2, L/N, or L/P	Plastic/None	\$292.00 +
	Jumpsuit 3231	one piece	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various colors	N2, L/N, or L/P	Plastic/None	\$187.60 +
	Q231	wh	3/16, 1/4	Black	N2	Plastic/Velcro	\$164.40
	F231	wh	3/16	Various colors	N2, L/N, or L/P	Plastic/Twist locks	\$142.40
Harvey's	Super Reef II series	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Blue, black, orange	N1 or N2	Plated metal/Twist locks	\$130.00-246.00
	Argonaut II series	wh	3/16, 1/4	Blue, black, orange	N1 or N2	Plated metal/Twist locks	\$154.00-245.00
	High Tide series	fj	1/8, 3/16, 1/4, 3/8	Blue, black, orange	N2	Plated metal/Twist locks	\$245.00-292.00
Henderson Aquatics	M102	wh	3/16, 1/4	Black	N1	Plastic/Twist locks	\$167.95 +
	M125, 126	wh	3/16, 1/4	Black	N1	Plastic/Twist locks	\$143.95-145.95 +
	435/440	fj	1/8, 3/16, 1/4, 3/8	Blue, black, orange	N2 435, N1 440	Plastic/Twist locks	\$193.95-235.95 +
	2080	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Orange, black, blue	N1 or N2	Plastic/Twist locks	\$273.95 +
	Agua Tux M100-2	wh	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Blue or silver	N2 or L/N	Plastic/Twist locks	\$183.95 +
Imperial Mfg. Co.	King Turtle	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Various colors	N2 reg. or Glowflex	Plastic/Twist locks	\$239.60-324.00
	Jack and Jill Jump Suit	one piece	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various colors	N2 reg. or Glowflex	Plastic/Twist locks	\$172.20-210.80
	Baron and Baroness	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Black, blue	N2	Plastic/Twist locks	\$161.50-213.80
	Viscount 45	fj	1/8	Various colors	N2	Plastic/None	\$225.25
	Penguin	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Various colors	N2 reg. or Glowflex	Plastic/Velcro	\$269.60-355.50
	Sitka	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Black, blue	N2	Plastic/Twist locks	\$230.80-265.50
Ocean Dynamics	Super Stag Deluxe 321	wh or fj	3/16	Blue and black combination	L/P	Plastic/Velcro	\$295.00 +
	Super Stag Deluxe 811	wh or fj	1/4	Various combinations	L/N	Plastic/Velcro	\$290.00 +
	Super Stag Deluxe 561	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Various combinations	N2	Plastic/Twist locks	\$265.00 +
	Stag Taped Suit, 470	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Black or blue	N2	Plastic/Twist locks	\$258.00 +
	Stag Sewn Suit, 491G	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Black or blue	N2	Plastic/Twist locks	\$206.00 +
O'Neill	The 360	one piece	3mm	Black/black, navy & white	N2	Plastic/None	\$270.00
	Super Full (back zip)	one piece	3mm	Various combinations	N2	Plastic/None	\$200.00
	Winter Sun	one piece	2mm	Various combinations	N2	Plastic/None	\$156.00
Parkway Fabricators	Farmer John	fj	3/16, 1/4	Blue	Spandex	Plastic/Twist locks	\$266.00
	Seal Suit	fj	1/4	Blue	N2	Plastic/Twist locks	\$251.00
	Deluxe Hi-Waist	wh	1/4	Blue or black	N2	Plastic/Twist locks	\$207.60
	The Northern Suit	fj	1/4	Blue	N2	Plastic/Twist locks	\$222.50
Scubapro	Proflex	wh or fj	3/16, 1/4	Black and blue	L2	Plastic/Velcro	\$250.00 +
SeaSuits	Women's French Cut	wh or fj	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various combinations	N1, N2, or L/N	Plastic/None	\$120.00 +
	120 Series	one piece	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various colors	N1, N2, or L/N	Plastic/None	\$110.00 +
	Lido 130 Series	wh	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various colors	N1, N2, or L/N	Plastic/Twist locks	\$120.00 +
	Century Dive Suit	fj	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various colors	N1, N2, or L/N	Plastic/Twist locks	\$150.00 +
	Balboa 150 Series	fj, wh	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Black	N1 or N2	Plastic/Twist locks	\$105.00 +
SubAqua Specialties	957-1720	wh, fj	1/4	Blue	N2	Nylon/Twist locks	\$136.50
	957-1721 and 957-1722	mens fj, womens wh	1/4	Blue	N2	Nylon/Twist locks	\$137.95-159.95
Sub-Aquatic Systems	La Mer Series	wh or fj	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Blue or black	N/P	Plastic/None	\$230.00-290.00
	Legend Series	wh or fj	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Blue or black	N/P	Plastic/Velcro	\$230.00-290.00
	Mariner Series	one piece	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Blue or black	N/P	Plastic/None	\$184.00-205.00
Sunland Sports, Inc. (Sundance)	One piece	one piece	1/8, 3/16, 1/4	Various colors	N1 or N2*	Plastic/None	\$145.00 +
	Full (waist-high suit)	wh	1/8, 3/16, 1/4, 3/8	Various colors	N1 or N2	Plastic/Twist locks or Velcro	\$135.00 +
	Full (farmer john)	fj	3/16, 1/4, 3/8	Various colors	N1 or N2	Plastic/Twist locks or Velcro	\$180.00 +
	Full (hooded farmer john)	fj	3/16, 1/4, 3/8	Various colors	N1 or N2	Plastic/Twist locks or Velcro	\$205.00 +
U.S. Divers	Super Sport	wh	3/16, 1/4	Black	N1	Plated metal/Twist locks	\$120.00
	Sea Diver II Series	fj	3/16, 1/4	Black	N2	Plated metal/Twist locks	\$253.00
	Taskmaster II Series	fj	3/16, 1/4	Black	N1 or N2	Plated metal/Twist locks	\$270.00
	Capri II Series	wh	1/4	Black	N2	Plated metal/Twist locks	\$200.00
	Oceanaut Series	wh	1/4	Black	N2	Plated metal/Twist locks	\$200.00

CHART NOTES AND KEY

S—Skin
N—Nylon
L—Lycra
fj—Farmer john or farmer jane and jacket
P—Plush

wh—Waist high pants and jacket
N2—Nylon two sided
L2—Lycra two sided

Glowflex—Nitrogen blown rubber with highly reflective nylon used by Imperial

*—Sundance jackets and pants can be ordered separately in Lycra/nylon at extra cost

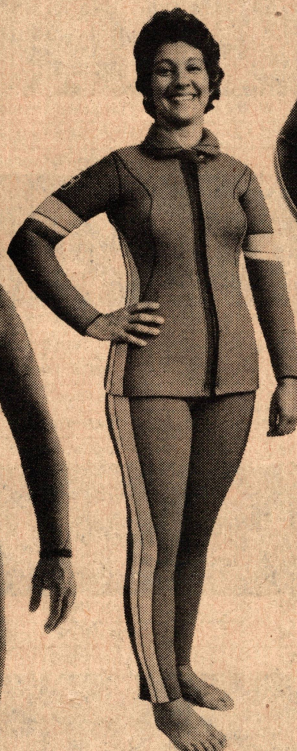
WETSUIT



Sub-Aquatic Systems, Mariner

fingernails. First pull the suit over your hands and feet and work the suit onto the rest of your body. Don't gouge the neoprene or stress the seams. Lock the zipper halves together and hold the jacket away from your body as you pull the slide. Be absolutely sure that you are not stressing the zipper by trying to use it to pull your jacket together. The zipper's function is only to lock the two pieces together, not pull the jacket into place.

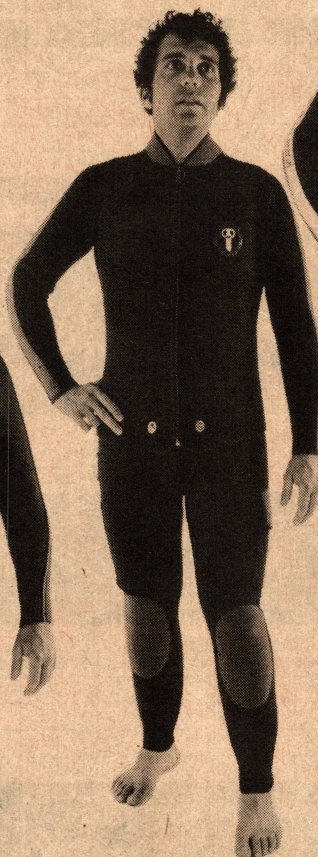
The same stressless approach should be used when undressing. Gently peel off your suit. This might not be the fastest way, but it will pay off in the long run. Often,



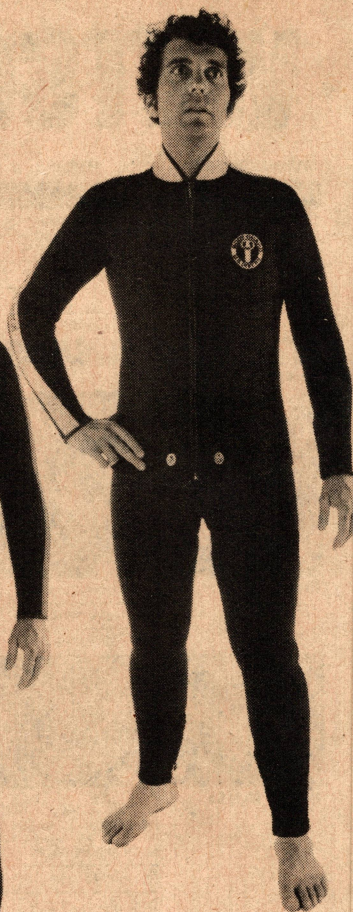
**Sunland Sports, Inc.
Full (farmer john)**



U.S. Divers, Super Sport



U.S. Divers, Taskmaster II




U.S. Divers, Oceanaut

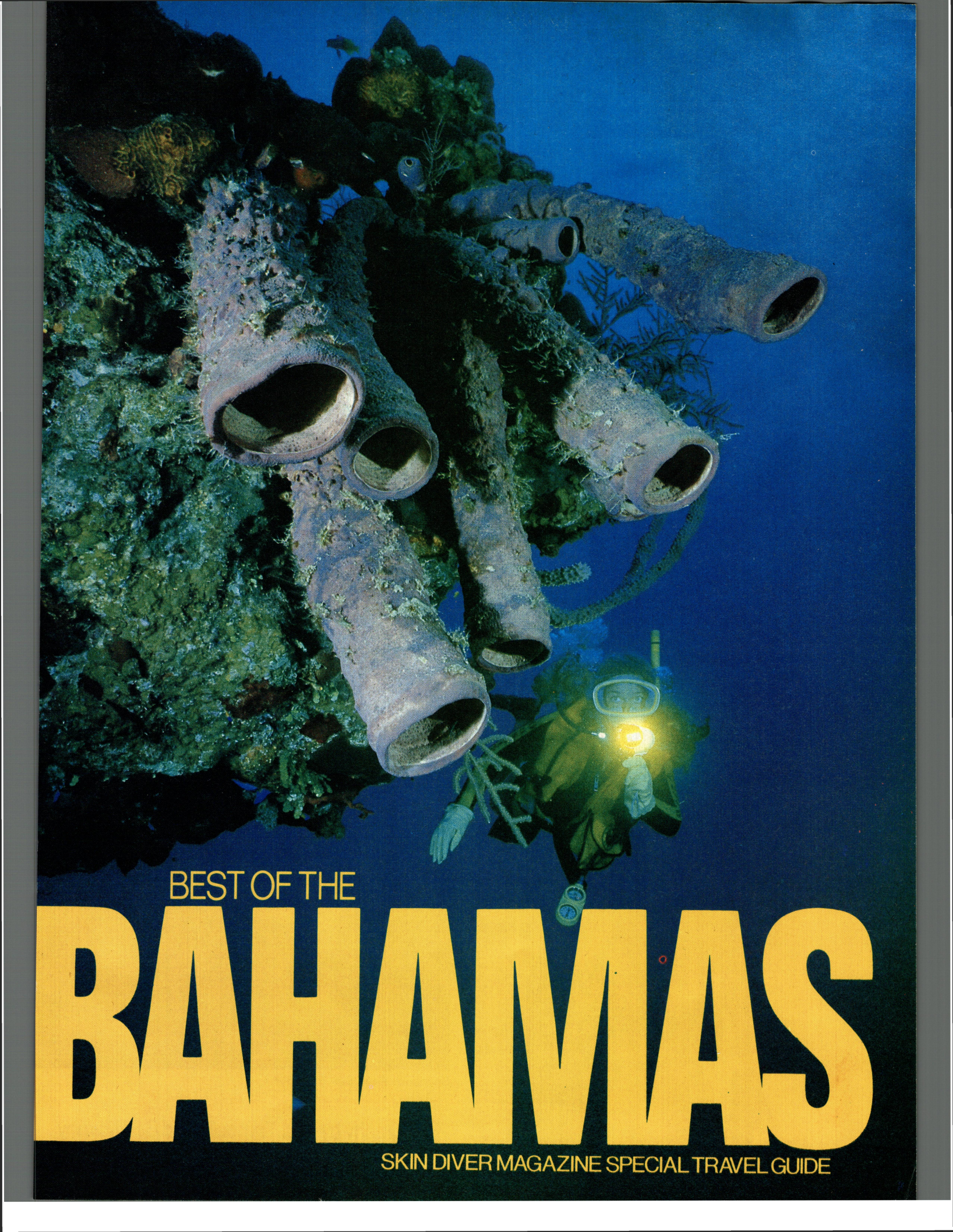
turning your suit inside out as you remove it will prove to be the best method.

After your diving day, rinse the suit thoroughly in fresh water to remove salt, grit and bacteria. Never leave your suit folded in your gear bag or in the trunk of your car any longer than necessary. You will not harm your suit by leaving it in a bucket of fresh water overnight, but you can substantially shorten its life by failing to clean and properly store it. After washing, dry both sides of the suit. Avoid drying in direct sunlight because ultraviolet rays will fade the nylon and attack the rubber. Do not dry your suit in a machine or with heat from a camp fire. After drying, it is a good idea to apply a light coat of silicone spray to all the zippers and hang the suit on a broad, padded hanger. The storage area should be free of excessive air flow, direct sunlight, and extreme heat or cold. It is wise to store your suit in a plastic bag if you do not plan to

use it in the near future as ozone, a pollutant in the air, tends to break down neoprene.

CONCLUSION

Without question, buying the wetsuit that is best for your needs requires you to be better educated as a consumer than ever before. While many of the basics are the same as in past years, advanced technology and the new emphasis on fashion and color has added some much needed pizzazz and comfort to our sport. The process of selecting the suit for you need not be as intimidating as it can initially appear. It simply means that you must do a little homework. All you really need to do is be aware of the manner in which suits are built, the major cuts, the terminology, the proper fit, and your particular needs. As you begin to match those factors, just try to remember the following point. Being comfortable in the water is truly important. Technology has reached the point where it is no longer necessary to be too cold, too warm, or uncomfortable underwater because of your wetsuit. Today, being comfortable requires only that you select the suit that best fits your needs. If fun underwater is what you are after, the extra effort will be well worth it. 

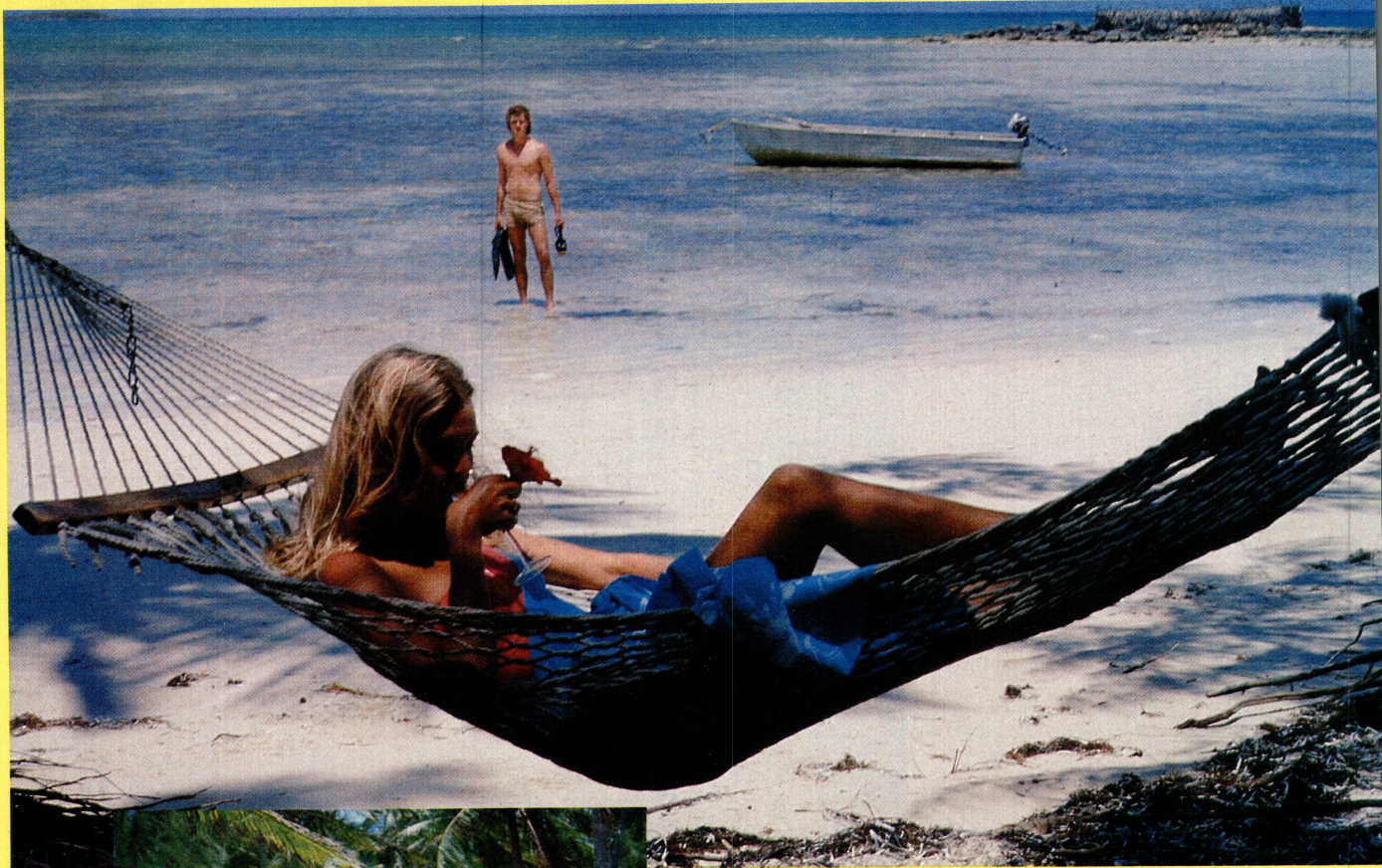


BEST OF THE

BAHAMAS

SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE SPECIAL TRAVEL GUIDE

BEST OF THE



Small Hope Bay Lodge, Andros.



Snapshot Reef, San Salvador.

Photography by Paul Tzimoulis and Geri Murphy

BAHAMAS

A PICTORIAL GUIDE TO THE BEST DIVE SPOTS IN THE FAMILY ISLANDS

By Paul J. Tzimoulis

Among the tropical islands of the world, the Bahamas are perhaps the best known and most frequent choice for those who seek sun, sand and warm seas. Their balmy climate, friendly people and remarkably clear waters provide an irresistible attraction for boaters, fishermen and divers alike.

The Bahamas are a vast, sprawling archipelago containing some 700 separate islands and covering an ocean area larger than New England or the state of California. Bordered on one side by the blue Atlantic and on the other by the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, the Bahamas are blessed with absolutely stunning underwater visibility and an enormous array of marine life. A complex system of thorny coral reefs and shifting sand banks discourage commercial fishing efforts and the Bahamas remain one of the last great fish havens in the Atlantic.

The chief attraction of the Bahamas is the breathtaking natural beauty. From the air these islands and surrounding shallow reefs compose a striking rainbow of vivid oceanic colors ranging from the cobalt blue of the oceanic deep to aquamarine shades of every tint and texture. The Bahama government has wisely exercised caution in the development of these natural resources and thus preserved much of this natural beauty. Rapid expansion, overbuilding and heavy industrialization are not the goals of the Bahama people. With the exception of a few places on the larger islands, most of the Bahamas are in the same natural state they were 100 years ago. These islands possess

photo/Jack Dratahl



San Salvador Island.



Nassau Airport.



an almost rural atmosphere, reminiscent of the Kentucky mountains or up-state Connecticut. The comparatively small population (185,000 people) has no significant impact on the marine environment, and pollution is not a major problem. The pristine waters of the Bahamas continue to flourish with living coral reefs and a tremendous abundance of marine life.

Another strong attraction of the Bahamas is its marvelous climate. While icy winds and snow storms sweep across Canada and the United States, the Bahamas remain warm, sunny and inviting. And yet, when August heat makes cities like New York and Chicago oppressively hot and humid, the Bahamas remain cool and pleasant. Ocean trade winds from the Atlantic are naturally cooling and rainfall is not excessive. The Bahamas are blessed with a perfect blend of subtropical weather that has often been described as perpetual June.

The Bahamas' close proximity to the continental United States make these islands an attractive travel bargain in these days of rising airline costs. Some of the islands, such as Bimini, lie 50 to 60 miles off the coast of Florida, and even the furthest islands are but a few hundred miles offshore. Most of the islands are easily accessible with same day travel connections as there are literally hundreds of flights daily in and out and between various islands.

For the diver, the Bahamas constitute a grand smorgasbord of underwater adventures. Nowhere else can one find such a wide variety of dive experiences that can thrill and delight the vacationing diver. In the Bahamas, there is something for everyone and often far more than most divers could imagine. Each island has its own unique undersea attraction and quite often these phenomena are unduplicated anywhere else in the tropics.

There are spectacular drop-offs which often begin in 40 feet of water and plummet vertically thousands of feet. Close by, one often finds shallow coral gardens in 10 to 20 feet of water, filled with a fairyland collection of fragile corals and colorful fish. There are mysterious ocean blue holes — geologic curiosities produced in the prehistoric evolution of earth. Divers can explore fascinating historical shipwrecks that date back to the Civil War and reveal a significant link between the Bahamas and early America.

You can drift along the outer edge of the continental shelf, carried by the invisible and awesome force of the giant Gulf Stream. There are giant underwater caverns, labyrinths of winding coral tunnels and steep walled canyons which lead to vertical drop-offs. You can take a roller coaster ride on a drift dive between two closely spaced islands or visit one of the fascinating fish holes where schools of reef fish congregate

by the thousands. There are inland cave dives, specially conducted shark tours and night dives which provide an opportunity to see and photograph many rare marine creatures. The opportunities for underwater adventure are virtually limitless in the Bahamas, and this is perhaps why many divers continue to return to the Bahamas year after year in quest of more excitement and enjoyment.

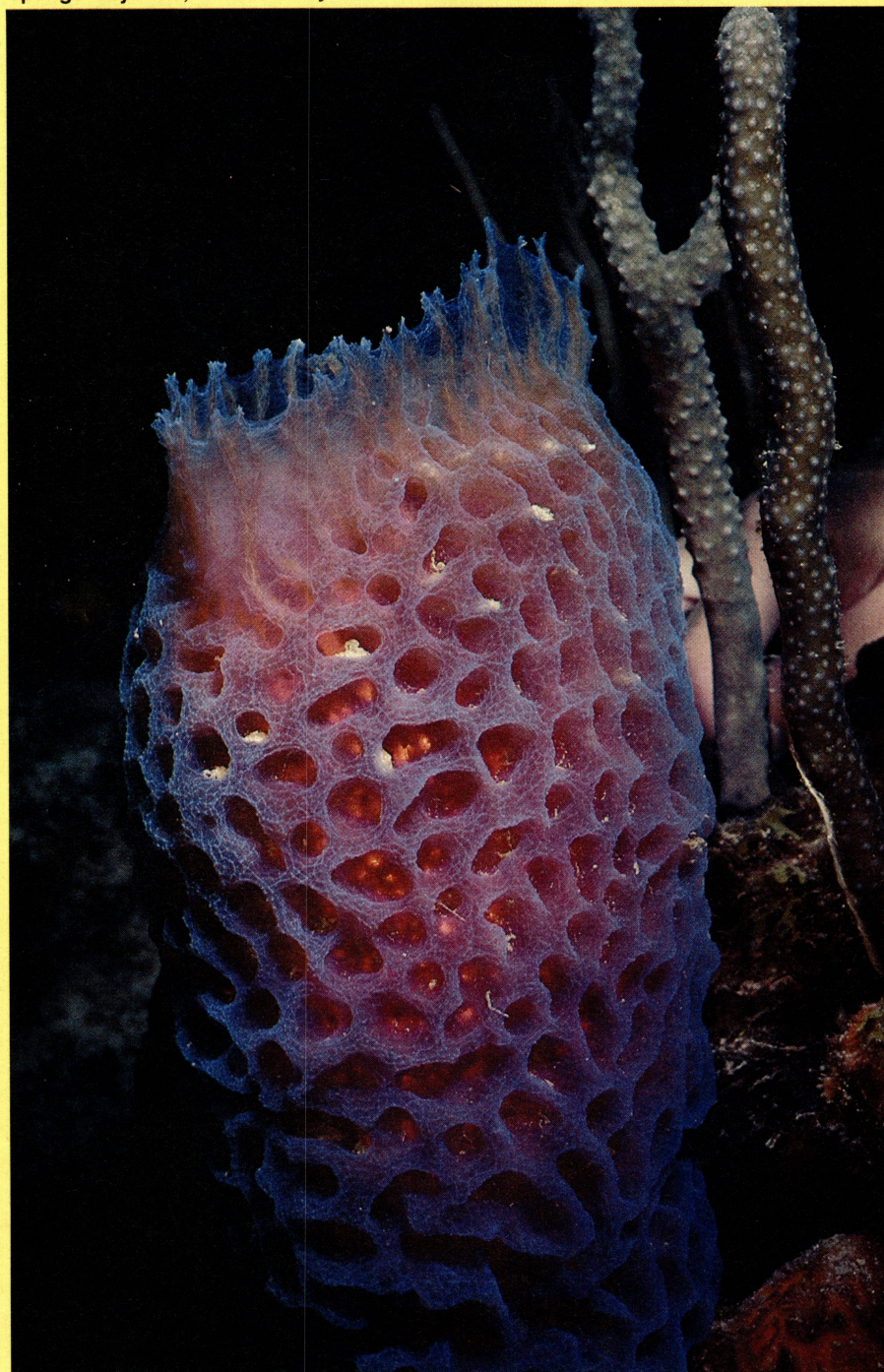
To better illustrate the remarkable breadth and scope of the Bahamas, SKIN DIVER will take you on a tour of the very best dive spots sprinkled throughout the Bahamas. While this report is by no means a complete or comprehensive travel guide to the thousands of dive sites which exist in these islands, it will

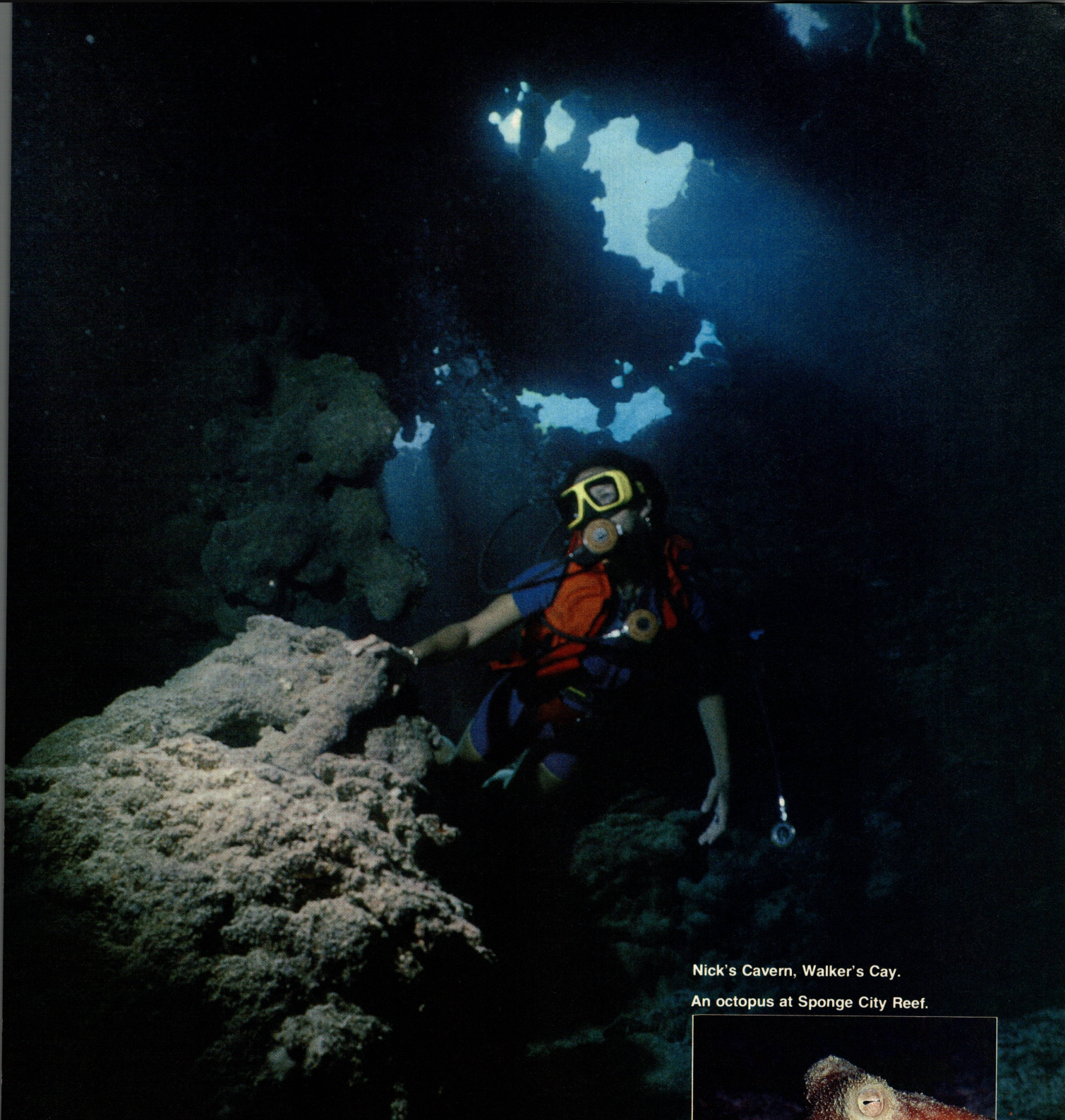
provide a representative sampling of those undersea attractions which make the Bahamas so exciting. We will begin this tour at the northern tip of the Bahamian archipelago and work our way southward through this vast chain of coral islands.

WALKER'S CAY

Walker's Cay is a solitary island located at the very northern tip of the Bahama island chain. It is surrounded by 100 miles of shallow coral reefs and vast stretches of sand banks. Barely a speck

Sponge City Reef, Walker's Cay.

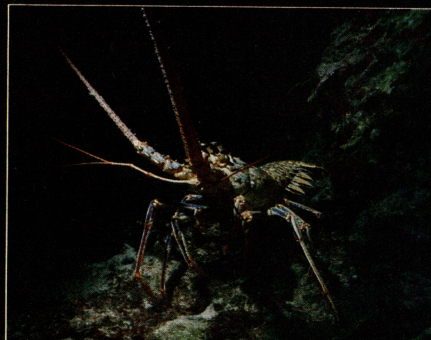


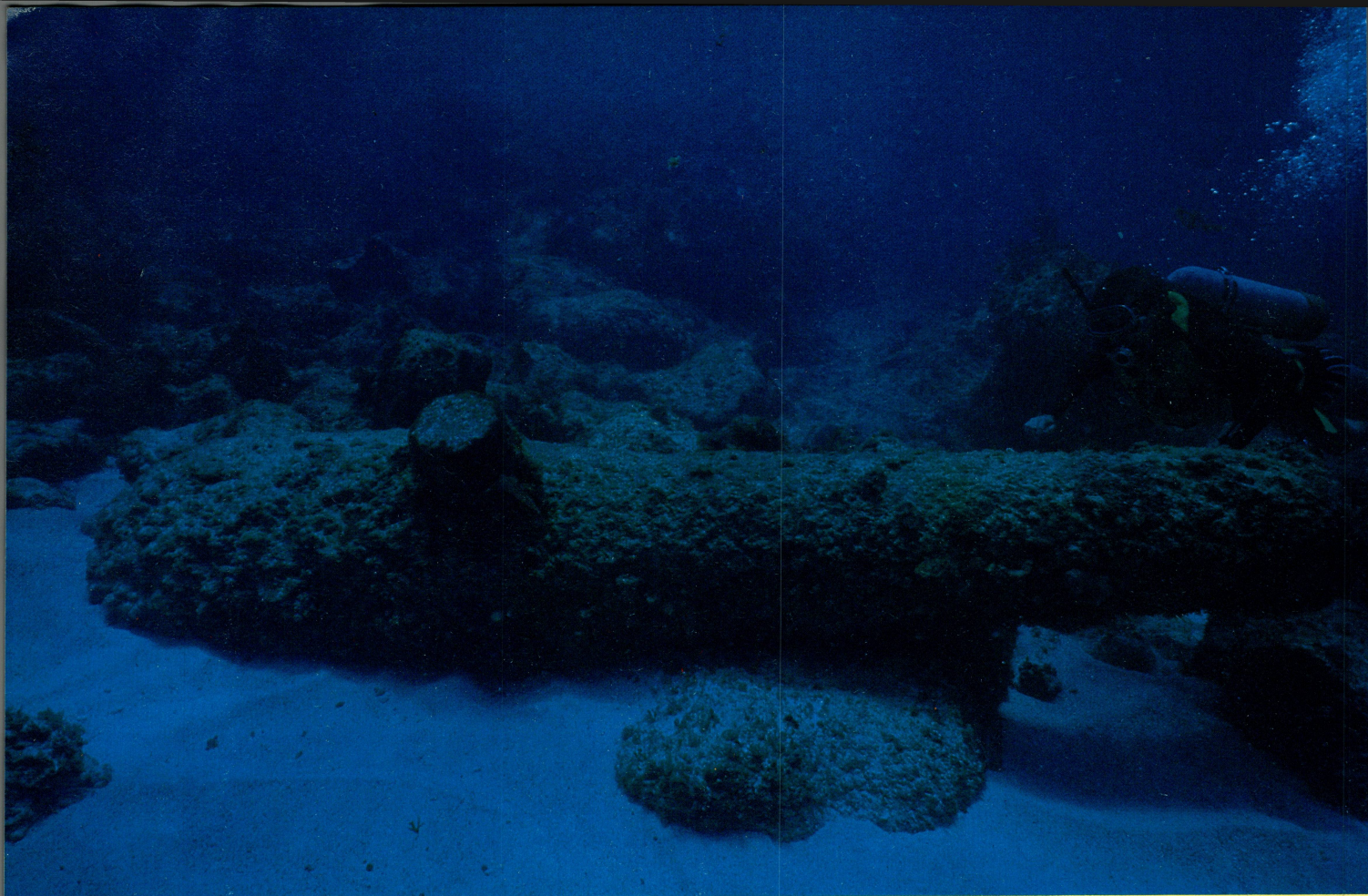


Nick's Cavern, Walker's Cay.

An octopus at Sponge City Reef.

A spiny lobster at Nick's Cavern.





Adirondack wreck, Abaco.

in the open sea, this tiny island measures one mile long and one-quarter mile wide. Much of its surface is occupied by an aircraft landing strip and a resort hotel.

Being situated well off the beaten tourist trail, Walker's Cay is somewhat of an exclusive resort facility for big game fishermen, ocean yachtsmen and guests seeking the tranquility of a private island resort. The hotel, which goes by the same name as the island, is a well-organized and totally self-sufficient resort that produces its own fresh water and electrical power. It has a full range of recreational facilities including: swimming pools, tennis courts, a dive shop and a large marina. This resort even operates its own airline with daily flights from Ft. Lauderdale.

The most impressive dive attraction at Walker's Cay is a giant complex of underwater coral caves and tunnels known as **Nick's Caverns**. Located one and one-half miles from the marina, this unusual dive site was named after Nick Rolle, the Bahamian divemaster who first discovered it. This immense cavern complex lies beneath a large coral reef which covers more than five acres of ocean floor. Dive depths within the caverns average 35 feet and there are dozens of entrances. You could almost say the entire coral reef is hollow or honeycombed with an intricate web of interconnecting tunnels, caves and caverns. A diver could spend more than one hour swimming

through these tunnels and chambers and never cover the same ground twice. It takes no less than three full tank dives to cover the entire area.

Living inside the coral cavern complex is a variety of fish and invertebrates which give these caves a special personality. Many chambers are filled with schools of copper colored glassy sweepers, a species of fish that prefers the dark shadows of this reef's inner recesses. Other reef fish which inhabit these tunnels include: blackbar soldierfish, schoolmasters and chub. A large Nassau grouper weighing more than 30 pounds has taken up residency in the cave and is very tame. There are also a great many banded coral shrimp, spider crabs and lobsters that live in the small nooks and crannies of the cavern. One lobster was so friendly it allowed visiting divers to stroke its long feelers.

While there are no drop-offs or vertical walls in the Walker's Cay area, medium to deep diving opportunities are indeed available. One site, known as Sponge City, provides a unique opportunity for a drift dive at depths ranging from 70 to 100 feet. The reef bottom in this area is an undulating carpet of living corals covering an alternating series of ridges and grooves in the ocean floor. Carried by the current, divers glide over a lush bottom of tightly packed seaweeds, dome corals, seaplumes and other gorgonians. The sponge life in this particular area is un-

usually abundant and there is a wide array of basket, vase, cup and finger sponges. It is an ideal location for underwater photographers specializing in close-up pictures and fish portraits.

ABACO

Great Abaco is one of the major islands of the Bahamas, measuring more than 100 miles in length. It lies in the northeast corner of the island chain facing the open Atlantic. While large in size and area, Great Abaco is sparsely populated by small towns and settlements, many of which lie among the offshore cays that parallel its eastern shoreline. It is among these small islands that visitors will find a lovely chain of shallow coral reefs and seafan gardens that stretches for miles.

Great Abaco has three different dive operators in the resort areas of Treasure Cay, Hopetown and Marsh Harbour. All three shops conduct dive trips to the coral reefs and various shipwrecks which lie in depths ranging from 15 to 60 feet of water.

Treasure Cay is a country-club style resort two-thirds of the way toward the northern end of Great Abaco. This full service resort features golf, tennis, sailing, swimming and of course scuba diving. Located right at the marina is the



Above left, a bait-fish swarm off Abaco. Below left, The Catacombs, Treasure Cay.

Treasure Cay Diving Center complete with air compressor, tanks and a large dive boat.

One of the best dives in the Treasure Cay area is an amazing underwater coral cave complex appropriately named **The Catacombs**. Although this site is a 45 to 60 minute boat ride from the marina, it is worth the trip. The Catacombs consist of an estimated 100 different caves interconnected by a series of winding tunnels and archways. Most of the chambers are illuminated by the multiple entrances and exits, as well as small holes in the ceilings of these caves. Dive depths range from 10 to 25 feet. The caves are all shapes and sizes with some





The Caves Reef, Freeport.

of the larger chambers featuring 15 foot high vaulted ceilings.

The Catacombs are often loaded with marine life, including large schools of silvery baitfish. Several caves are so full of fish that the light coming from the cave entrances is often obscured. The caves and tunnels are also inhabited by many groupers, snappers, and other species of reef fish. Divemaster Craig Burns discovered this unusual cave system two years ago and has been charting it ever since.

A short distance from The Catacombs lies the remains of a historical Civil War wreck called **The San Jacinto**. According to Craig Burns, who researched the history, this wreck is believed to have been a 140 foot long Union gunboat which crashed into the rocks while in hot pursuit of a rebel blockade runner. The sinking is believed to have occurred in 1865. This ship was a steel hulled steamer and the remaining wreckage includes: two boilers, a three-bladed prop, a crankshaft, some main decking, masts

and part of the stern section. Dive depths range from 20 to 50 feet and the wreck is always loaded with fish. It appears to be a favorite congregating area for schools of grunts, chubs, parrotfish, horse-eyed jacks and amberjacks.

The two other dive operators are located in the Marsh Harbour and Hope-town area, which are situated close to each other. Marsh Harbour is the third largest city in the Bahamas, but it still maintains a small town atmosphere. Most of the resorts in this area are small

hotels with personalized service. Marsh Harbour is the home of the Chambered Nautilus, a small dive shop operation owned and managed by Dan Wiltfang.

Across the bay from Marsh Harbour lies the offshore settlement of Hopetown, one of the most picturesque island communities in all of the Bahamas. Dave Gale's Island Marine is a combination outboard repair shop, small boat rental service and dive shop on adjacent Parrot Cay.

The best dive in the Hopetown/Marsh Harbour area is a Civil War wreck which lies just outside the barrier reef at Man-O-War Cay. The **USS Adirondack** was a Union gunboat which crashed into the reef at night in 1862. She was a steam sloop, powered by both sail and steam engine. The ship is believed to have been more than 200 feet long and carrying three masts.

The *Adirondack* lies in 10 to 25 feet of water with an average visibility of 80 feet. Prominent underwater features include:

FREEPORT

Freeport is not an island but instead a small urban area on Grand Bahama Island, still another of the major islands in the Bahamas chain. It is located in the northwestern part of the archipelago, facing westward toward the coast of Florida. In fact, Freeport is only 70 miles from West Palm Beach.

Freeport is a model resort community which was designed and specifically built for American and Canadian tourists. Carved out of the surrounding island bush some 25 years ago, Freeport has grown to be the second largest city in the Bahamas. It features luxury high-rise hotels, well paved four lane highways, gambling casinos, more than 60 tennis courts, several tournament class golf courses, modern marinas for yachts and sailboats, and many lovely retirement homes for those who have found their place in the sun. Ironically, the name Freeport is now better known than the

vanced scuba training programs in decompression diving and cave exploration. The UNEXSO facility includes a large swimming pool, an 18 foot deep training tank, classroom, a photo darkroom, a marine biology lab, library, several dive boats and an upstairs cocktail lounge for evening entertainment.

The coral reefs off Freeport offer a wide variety of dive sites in shallow, medium and deep water. There is, however, one extremely unique deep dive at a site called **The Cup Handle**. This spot is located on the vertical face of the Freeport Drop-off. At approximately 200 feet an oddly shaped coral formation juts outward from the vertical face of the wall, appearing much like the handle of a giant tea cup. The inside diameter of the formation is approximately eight feet across — large enough for a scuba diver to pass through easily. The outer edge is approximately 15 feet in diameter and perfectly formed in the shape of a handle. The entire formation hangs out over a 2000 foot deep abyss with breathtaking visibility often exceeding 200 feet. The area of wall surrounding the cup handle is loaded with black coral trees, giant gorgonian fans, wire coral, large orange sponges and a staggering variety of lush marine growth.

Because of the hazardous depth involved, the Cup Handle dive is restricted to expert divers who have gone through the Decompression Diving Course and are certified. Bottom time is extremely limited and special safety preparations must be made for this type of wall dive.

An equally adventurous and somewhat more bizarre dive for Freeport visitors is a trip to **Ben's Cave**, an inland blue hole within driving distance of the UNEXSO Club. This site is very possibly one of the most beautiful and inspiring cave dives to be found anywhere in the Bahamas.

UNEXSO guests are taken by van to a wooded area 30 miles west of Freeport. The divers dress in full scuba gear by the side of the highway and then hike 100 yards into the woods along a winding footpath. A large hole in the ground marks the entrance to one of the largest and most beautiful subterranean cave systems on Grand Bahama. A 20 foot aluminum ladder is lowered into the hole and divers climb down the ladder in order to reach the water's edge. Beneath the earth's surface, Ben's Cave opens up into a giant cavern partially filled with water. It is well lit from the hole above and one can see that the cave is the size of a ballroom. The surface of the water is calm and very clear — one can make out the images of stones and rocks on the bottom.

Underwater, the cavern continues to slope downward on a 30 degree angle. The bottom of the cave is a jumbled mass of rocks and the underwater visibility is a stunning 150 feet. The dimensions of the cavern continue to expand to the size of a



Cup Handle Wall, Freeport.

steam boilers, crankshaft, heavy machinery and a capstan. The most interesting artifacts on this wreck are two giant Dahlgren guns. Manufactured at the West Point Foundry, these two distinctive cannons are approximately 15 feet long with an 11 inch bore. They were reputed to be the largest guns afloat during the Civil War period.

Another interesting dive is **The Towers**, a group of unique coral pinnacles. Starting from a depth of 50 feet, these pinnacles rise almost to the surface.

name of the island on which it sits.

Fashionable Freeport is also the home of the Underwater Explorers Society (UNEXSO), the largest underwater training facility in the Bahamas. Staffed by nine certified NAUI Instructors, this unique dive facility specializes in scuba education on all levels. UNEXSO offers more than eight different training courses ranging from introductory resort scuba all the way to advanced diver and assistant instructor certification. It is the only facility in the Bahamas which offers ad-

football field, as the outer walls become wider, longer and deeper. At a depth of 15 feet the fresh water changes to salt water. One hundred feet into the underwater cave you begin to encounter long thin stalagmites that rise upward from the cave floor and stalactites that hang down from the underwater ceiling. These curious formations were made in some pre-

historic era when the oceans of the world were much lower and this great cave was once dry. Some of these spindly formations are 15 feet long. The size of the underwater cavern is awesome — possibly 300 feet long and 60 feet wide.

At a point 150 feet into Ben's Cave you can still look back and see the entrance as a faint but beautiful blue glow. It is

from this vantage point that one can view an almost surrealistic scene which can only be described as a spellbinding sunrise on some primeval planet in another galaxy. The unearthly glow from the cave's entrance combines with the stalactites and stalagmites to provide an unnatural landscape that is somehow reminiscent of a science fiction painting. It is one of the most memorable dives you could ever make.

Bimini is the portion of the Bahamas which lies closest to the United States — barely 50 miles from Miami Beach. Although small in size and population, Bimini is a busy place because it is the gateway into the Bahamas for the majority of boats traveling east from Florida. On weekends the docks and streets are jammed with Florida tourists, big game fishermen, yachtsmen and of course scuba divers.

BIMINI

There are actually two islands which make up Bimini. South Bimini is a sparsely populated island with an international airport for arriving commercial flights and private aircraft. North Bimini, just a few hundred yards across the channel, is

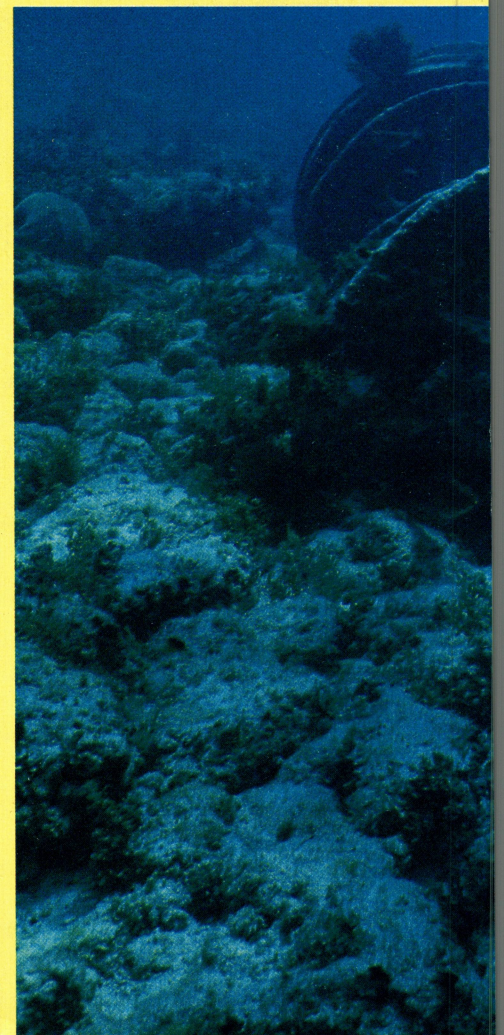


Fish feeding at The Plateau, North Eleuthera.

Bahamian Fisheries Laws That Affect Diving

- 1** No marine product (conch, crawfish, scalefish, coral, etc.) may be taken with the use of underwater breathing apparatus (scuba, surface compressor, etc.)
- 2** A snorkel diver may only use an Hawaiian sling or pole spear. Any other powered speargun may not be used.
- 3** The export of any marine product is illegal unless a permit is issued (this prevents American boats from spearfishing or taking coral, then returning to the States with marine products).
- 4** Protected areas. No marine product may be taken from the north coast of New Providence from Goulding Cay in the west to a line drawn between the eastern tip of Atholl Island and the eastern end of New Providence, and inside of a line drawn through the fringing islands. No commercial fishing is allowed in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park. A daily quota of fish may be taken by each boat (see Bahamas National Trust By-Laws).
- 5** No toxic product may be used to kill or catch fish.

Wheels of the Train Wreck, North Eleuthera.





Anxious diners at The Plateau.



where you will find a strip of small hotels, bars, restaurants and boat docks which accommodate visitors. It is also the location of Neil Watson's Undersea Adventures. The dive shop is located right on the dock, close to Brown's Hotel. Neil is regarded as a local hero and legend in his own time for he has set several world records for such feats as deep diving and swimming underwater for an incredible distance of 66 miles! Neil is also one of the most safety conscious divemasters that you will ever meet and an absolutely superb underwater guide.

There are many excellent coral reefs and dive sites in the Bimini area, but the one that takes the prize is a drift dive along **The Continental Shelf** at a depth of approximately 100 feet. Barely a ten minute boat ride from the dock lies the edge of a spectacular drop-off that borders the edge of the Gulf Stream. The wall begins at a depth of 90 to 100 feet and plummets straight down to 2000 feet. Underwater visibility along this drop-off frequently exceeds 200 feet. Because of the Gulf Stream, there is generally a current ranging in speed from two to five miles per hour.

Neil locates the edge of the wall with a recording depth finder and then hangs a 140 foot anchor line from an inflatable dinghy that drifts along at the speed of the Gulf Stream. Divers descend the anchor line and hang on at approximately the 100 foot depth level as they sail along the vertical face of the wall. It is one of the most effortless and yet thrilling experiences you can imagine.

The upper edge of the drop-off is covered with a forest of deep-sea gorgonians in various shades of black and gray. Beneath the giant fans is a lush marine growth of long purple tube sponges, giant basket sponges and magnificent black coral trees. The vertical face of the wall is a thicket of gorgonians and brilliantly colored marine life. There is also a great deal of fish action along this drop-off, including frequent encounters with 60 pound groupers and 10 pound lobsters. It seems as though the marine life here is especially large and very healthy. There is also a better than average possibility of sighting giant pelagics such as: 400 pound tunas, schools of amberjacks, brilliantly colored dolphinfish, large eagle rays, or possibly a sailfish. The average drift dive lasts for ten minutes and covers more than one-half mile of this incredibly beautiful drop-off.

CHUB CAY

Chub Cay is a small island in the Berry Islands group, in the central Bahamas. It sits on the very edge of an immense deep water channel called The Tongue of the Ocean. Ranging in depths from 6000 to 12,000 feet, this great channel



Paradise Island Reef, Nassau.

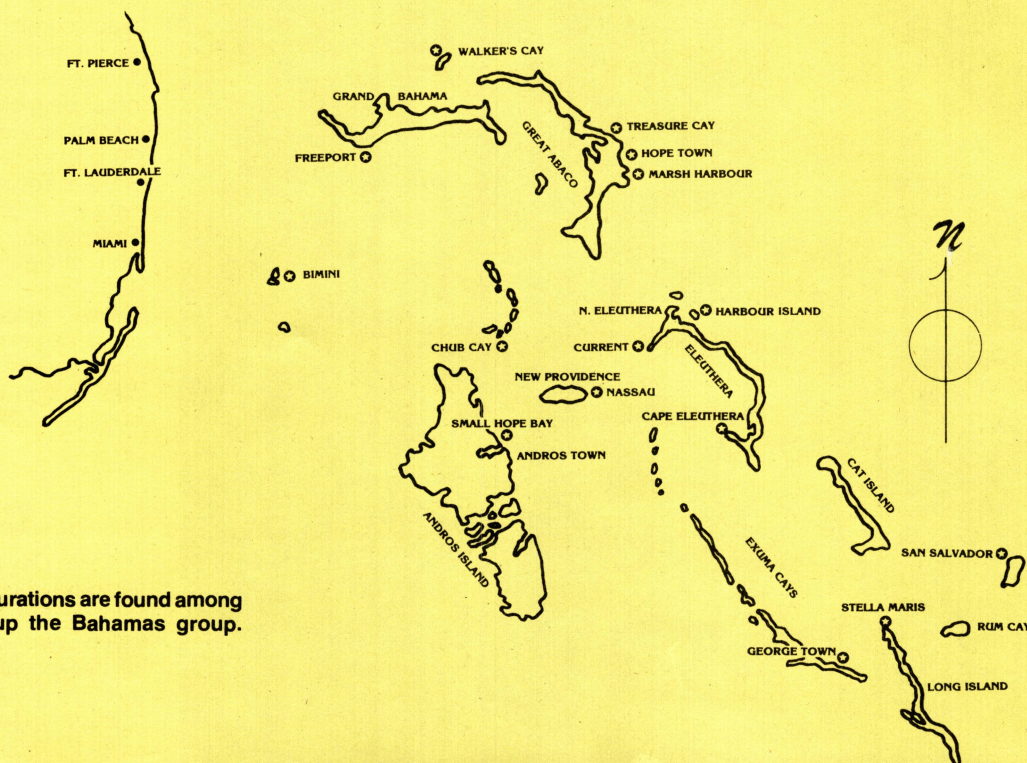
leads from the Atlantic deep to the central core of the Bahamas Bank. It also forms a natural fish trap for such oceanic species as: marlin, sailfish, manta rays, tuna and other giants of the sea. It is therefore no surprise to learn that Chub Cay has been the long time home of an exclusive big game fishing club.

The Chub Cay Club is another of those totally self-sufficient resort facilities complete with its own desalinization and electric power plants. The club also has its

own airport facility, with sufficient runway for private jets. The club facility and adjoining marina are divided into two separate sections with half of the property restricted to club members only. The remaining half of the club is open to the public and visiting yachtsmen. It is equipped with ample dockage, a small restaurant, modest hotel rooms, a swimming pool and a dive shop. The club's dive shop operation is managed by dive-master Charles Strong, a certified in-



Squirrelfish at Lyford Cay Drop-off, Nassau.



A variety of sizes and configurations are found among the islands which make up the Bahamas group.

structor from Texas.

One of the nicest dives at Chub Cay is a medium-depth reef called **The Salad Bar**. This gently sloping coral reef lies close to the drop-off and boasts an average visibility of 150 feet. Dive depths range from 60 to 130 feet and the ocean bottom is a lovely combination of high coral heads and small sand patches. Each head is covered with a lush mixture of slender gorgonians, small black coral trees and a wonderful array of colorful sponges. The reef is inhabited by a resident fish population of snappers, groupers, angelfish and very large trumpetfish. There are several large Nassau groupers on this reef, ranging in size from 20 to 45 pounds. The lush marine growth and crystal clear visibility help to form the perfect conditions for underwater photography and exciting reef exploration.

Another site which is outstanding for fish activity is a shallow reef called **Oasis**. Marked by an underwater buoy known only to the divemasters, this sprawling coral reef covers several acres of ocean floor. Dive depths range from 30

to 45 feet and the reef is absolutely loaded with fish. School after school of silver grunts, yellow grunts, porkfish and chub parade across the coral reef in precise formation. Tucked into the crevices and coral overhangs are thousands of reef fish including groupers, trumpetfish, snapper, squirrelfish and angelfish. The reef is a veritable fish bowl of activity and visitors are seldom disappointed.

ANDROS

Andros is the largest and least developed island in the entire Bahamas chain. Much of its rugged interior remains uncharted and untamed by either man or machine. There are only a few small settlements along the eastern coast of this immense island and most of the residents make a living from either farming or a small amount of fishing.

Approximately one mile north of Andros Town is the quaint beachside resort known as Small Hope Bay Lodge. It is the

oldest and best known dive resort hotel in the Bahamas, under the same management for almost 21 years. The resort is still operated on a daily basis by pioneer Dick Birch who originally built the lodge with his own hands.

Small Hope Bay Lodge is a very special kind of resort with an unhurried pace and a very cordial atmosphere. It is small, with only 23 bungalows that can accommodate up to 60 people. The resort sits at the edge of a quiet lagoon with its small buildings sprinkled among the palm trees and Australian pines. It's the kind of place where guests can kick back and enjoy life by getting closer to nature. The service is very personalized and guests are treated like members of one big happy family.

Less than one-half mile out from the Small Hope Bay dock is the Andros Barrier Reef, a 142 mile long coral reef formation that parallels the entire eastern shoreline of the island. Beyond the reef lies an immense vertical drop-off which serves as the dividing line between Andros and the Tongue of the Ocean. This



Above, a turtle at Paradise Island Reef.

Left, a diver silhouette at Lyford Cay.

drop-off begins at depths ranging from 75 to 100 feet and plunges downward to almost 6000 feet. It is here that the sport of wall diving began more than two decades ago. The best dive at Small Hope Bay is a site appropriately named **Over The Wall**. Located directly off Goat Cay, it can be reached in less than 15 minutes by dive boat. The top of the sheer vertical wall begins at 70 feet, with some portions that actually cut back under the lip of the wall at deeper depths. This drop-off features a colorful variety of tube sponges, soft corals and black coral trees. Visibility along this drop-off can range from 150 to 200 feet, thus providing a spectacular panoramic view. Many types of pelagic fish are seen along this drop-off, including large eagle rays, hammerhead sharks, schools of jacks, turtles and barracuda.

Another popular dive site in the Small Hope Bay area is the **Barge Wreck**,

which lies in 70 feet of water, a short way back from the edge of the drop-off. The wreck is the remains of a steel WW II LCM landing craft which was deliberately sunk by Dick Birch in 1963. The old landing craft has since become a habitat for an entire community of tame reef fish. The barge is a favorite haunt for at least one dozen Nassau groupers and a large congregation of yellowtail snapper — all of which can be fed by hand. The divemasters frequently take down a can of conch or food scraps and put on a fish feeding show for visiting guests.

NASSAU

Nassau is the capital of the Bahamas, the largest city in these islands, the country's major shipping port and the center of the Bahamas tourism industry. Almost 60 percent of the entire Bahamian population resides in this metro area and more than one million visitors come through this town every year. As with Freeport, the name of this popular resort city is far better known than the island on which it resides — New Providence Island.

Nassau is the heartbeat of the Bahamas serving as both the country's commercial center and fast moving playground for sun seeking tourists. Its high-

rise hotels, plush gambling casinos and swinging nightclubs attract younger visitors who want an activities-filled vacation. This dazzling vacation mecca spans the full range of recreational facilities from water skiing to golf. At first glance, one would hardly think of Nassau as a satisfactory destination for the serious minded diver. Nassau does possess some excellent dive sites — but they can be difficult to reach unless one does some advance planning.

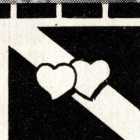
Trumpetfish, Andros



There are presently four different dive operations in the Nassau area. Bahama Divers is in the shopping arcade in the Pilot House Hotel. Nassau Dive Supply has consolidated with Underwater Tours Ltd. and their headquarters are located on Bay Street next door to the Pilot House. Sun Divers is a small snorkeling and scuba diving concession located at the Sheraton British Colonial Hotel. Omorka Tours is a new dive operation located at the South Ocean Beach Hotel,

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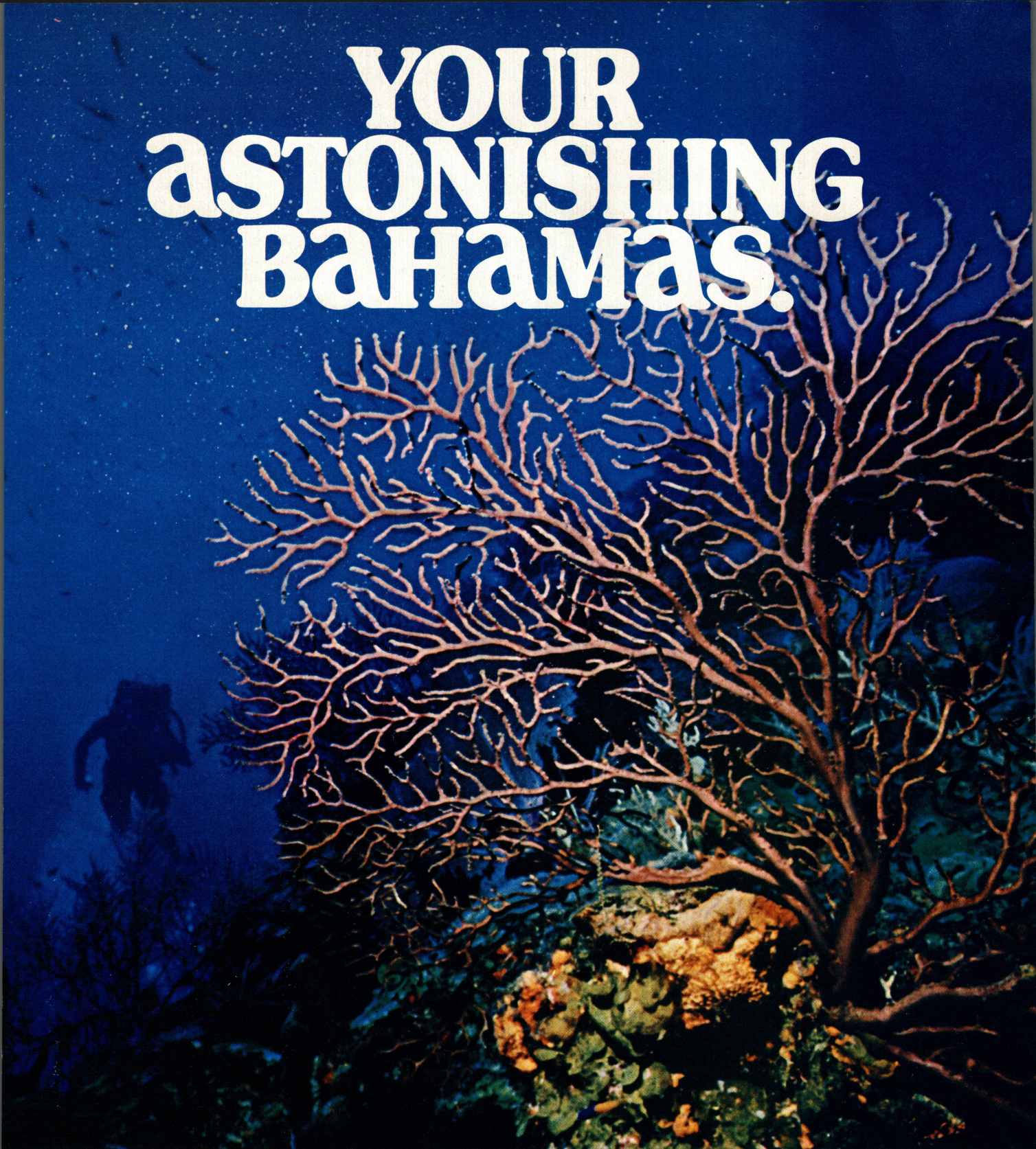
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A large, intricate coral structure, possibly a sea fan or a large branching coral, dominates the right side of the frame. It has a complex, tree-like structure with many thin, branching arms. The coral is a light brown or tan color, contrasting with the deep blue water. To the left of the coral, a diver is visible in silhouette, swimming towards the left. The background is a deep, dark blue, suggesting a deep underwater environment. The overall scene is serene and mysterious.

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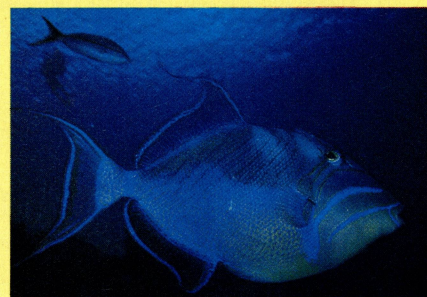


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at the eastern end of New Providence Island. While all four dive operators primarily cater to tourists, special dive excursions for experienced and certified divers are conducted on pre-arranged dates. It is these special excursions which provide an opportunity for really exciting dive adventures.

One of the best wall dives in the Nassau area is the **Lyford Cay Drop-off**, off the northwest tip of New Providence Island. The top of this drop-off begins at 40 feet and plummets vertically to 6000 feet. The face is a sheer wall dotted with outcroppings of black coral, gorgonian fans and sponges. Underwater visibility here ranges from 150 to 200 feet.

The Lyford Cay Drop-off is well known for its big fish activity. Many pelagics cruise by this point and divers will fre-



The Salad Bar Reef, Chub Cay.

quently see eagle rays, schools of horse-eye jack, tuna, amberjacks and an occasional shark.

Closer to Nassau Harbour lies the twisted remains of a steel hulled steam yacht known as the **Mahoney Wreck**. The wreck lies in 30 feet of water, one-half mile directly out from Paradise Island. This ship was originally built in 1881 by an English playboy and sailed under the name *Candance*. In subsequent years, it was sold and renamed several times. Strangely enough, it was never called the *Mahoney* and the origin of this nickname remains a mystery.

The steel hulled ship has been dynamited and salvaged by commercial div-

Sand Castles, San Salvador.



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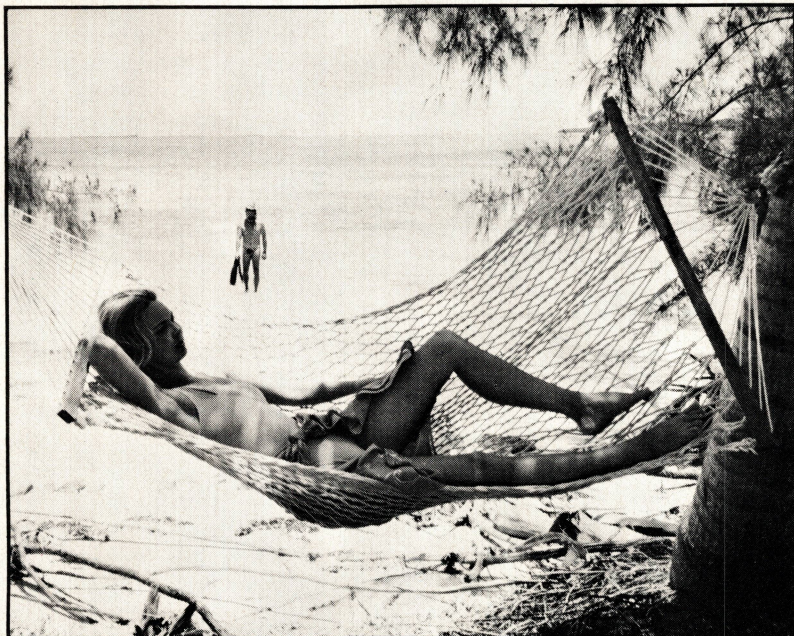
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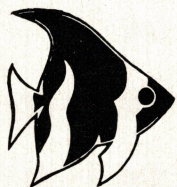
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Small is beautiful!



The Salad Bar Reef, Chub Cay.

ers. What is left is a jumbled mass of steel beams and metal plates and some coral encrusted chunks of heavy machinery. The most prominent feature is a giant steam boiler. There is also an engine block, drive shaft and pile of anchor chain. While visibility is not the best, the wreck is inhabited by a large community of reef fish. A separate section lies in slightly deeper water some 40 yards from the main wreckage. This deep section is frequently more interesting as there is a greater congregation of schooling fish and groupers.

Perhaps the most unusual dive site in the Nassau area is a peculiar underwater cave formation known as the **Lost Ocean Hole**. It lies some six miles southeast of Nassau, in the open banks area. The site is totally unmarked and remains a closely guarded secret among those who know its precise location. According to Gardner Young, the dive guide who originally discovered this undersea phenomenon, the Lost Ocean Hole has been lost more times than it has been found.

Marked by a large circular hole in the ocean floor, this unique ocean hole is in approximately 30 feet of water. The opening or neck of the hole is perhaps 40 feet in diameter, but once you pass through this the hole expands outward in a bell shape. It is 180 feet to the bottom of the hole where the walls are approximately 250 feet across. The floor of this giant cavern is almost conical, with the bottom sloping off to even greater depths on one side. Underwater visibility often exceeds 150 feet.

ELEUTHERA

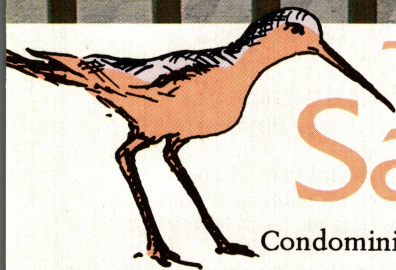
Approximately 40 miles west of Nassau lies Eleuthera, another major island

The Frascate wreck, San Salvador.



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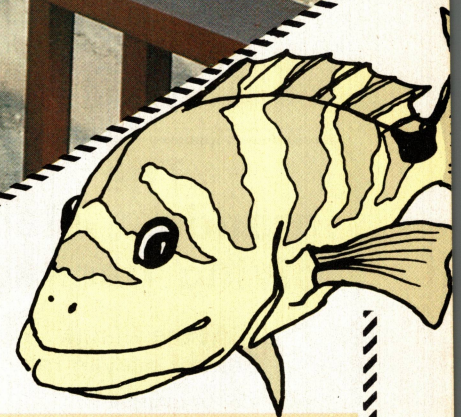
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in the Bahamas chain. This stringbean shaped island is over 100 miles long and faces directly into the open Atlantic. It is an island of extremely diverse undersea environments, including several oddities that can be found nowhere else in the Bahamas.

Much of Eleuthera's diving is concentrated at the north end. Two popular dive resort operations are on Harbour Island just off Eleuthera. The Romora Bay Club, owned and operated by Roy Schmidt, is the oldest and best known dive resort hotel for Eleuthera visitors. Less than one mile away is Valentine's Yacht Club, a newer, but just as well-equipped dive resort hotel managed by the Valentine family.

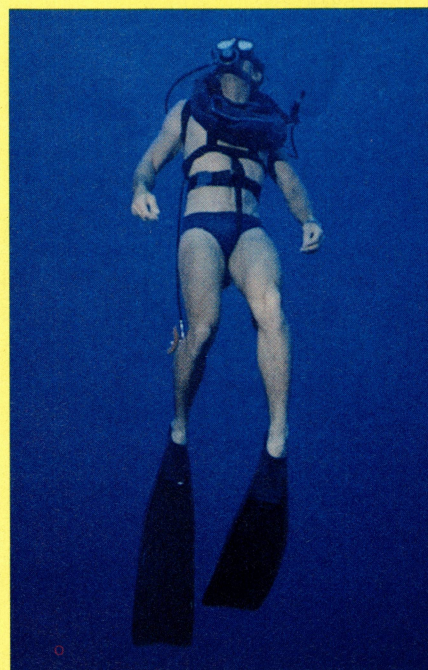
The best dive site in the North Eleuthera area is a spot called **The Plateau**. This medium depth coral reef lies seven miles southeast of Harbour Island on the Atlantic side. This unusual formation takes the form of a large coral plateau approximately the size of two football fields. Dive depths range from 40 to 90 feet and the ocean bottom is an alternating series of high coral ridges and deep surge channels. The ridges are covered with tightly packed corals of every shape and size. The most abundant forms include staghorn, brain, plate, elkhorn and button. There are also many colorful sponges, seafans and gorgonians. The fish at Plateau are extremely friendly, as they are regularly fed by dive-master, Bill Ellis. Among the tame fish found at this location are several Nassau

groupers, a school of yellowtail snapper, several large angelfish and several black durgons. It is a marvelous spot for underwater photography.

Two miles north of the Plateau lies an extremely peculiar dive site known as the **Glass Window**. Right up against the rocky shoreline, it is directly under a 50 foot cliff. Dive depths average 50 feet and the ocean floor is littered with giant stone boulders. Most of these massive rocks weigh an estimated 20 to 50 tons each, and appear to have fallen into the sea from the cliff above. The undersides of these huge boulders are covered with brilliantly colored encrusting sponges in vivid shades of crimson red, glowing yellow, or sparkling pink. Many of the stones look as though they have been decorated by an abstract artist.

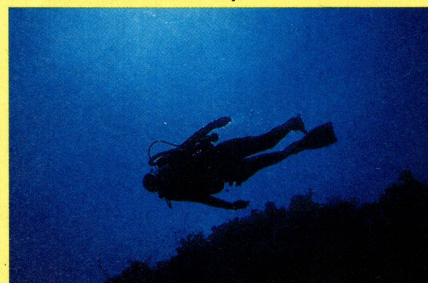
In addition to the giant stone boulders, there are many strange holes in the solid rock sea floor. These peculiar formations are perfectly round holes five feet in diameter and eight to ten feet deep. Lying in the bottom of each hole is a fair sized stone. It is believed that the swirling action of violent ocean storms causes the spinning rock to bore a perfectly round hole through the solid rock seabed.

One of the wildest dives at North Eleuthera is a place called **Current Cut**. It is a narrow ocean pass between the western tip of North Eleuthera and a smaller island known as Current Island. Barely 75 yards wide and only 60 feet deep, this natural channel serves as the major waterway between Eleuthera



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Stocking Island Cave, Georgetown, Exuma.

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GEORGE TOWN

George Town is the largest settlement in the Exuma Cays chain. At the southern end of this lovely string of islands, it is a small but friendly resort community with several hotels, a natural harbor and an international airport. It has long been a favorite port-of-call for cruising yachtsmen, fishermen and vacationers who enjoy the peaceful quiet of an out island community.

George Town is also the home of the Exuma Diving Company, an independent dive charter service operated by Wendel McGregor. Wendel conducts daily dive trips for guests at both the Out Island Inn and the Peace & Plenty Hotel.

Perhaps the best dive in the George Town area is an ocean blue hole called **Mystery Cave**. This unique formation is one of the only horizontal blue hole tun-



Angelfish Cave, Georgetown, Exuma.

nels to be found in the Bahamas. The entrance is in the side of a vertical limestone bluff at Stocking Island's Hurricane Harbour, 15 feet under the surface. The tunnel is approximately 40 feet in diameter. It slopes down to a maximum depth of 60 feet and then runs back under the island for an undetermined distance. Approximately 400 feet of the tunnel have been explored thus far but no one has yet found the end.

A surprising number of reef fish appear to congregate just inside the mouth of Mystery Cave. This community includes

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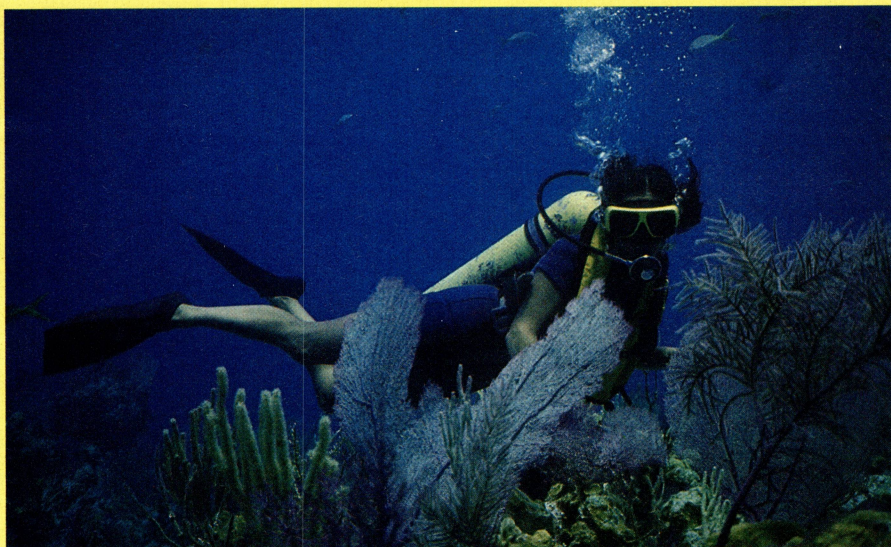
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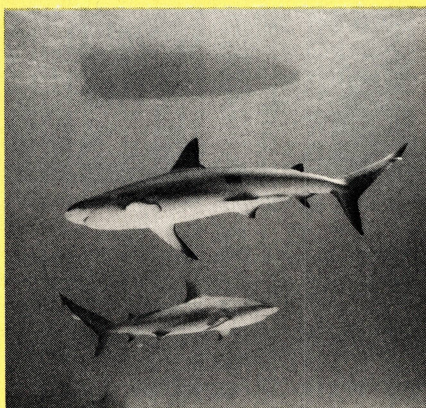
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Trumpetfish Reef, Stella Maris.



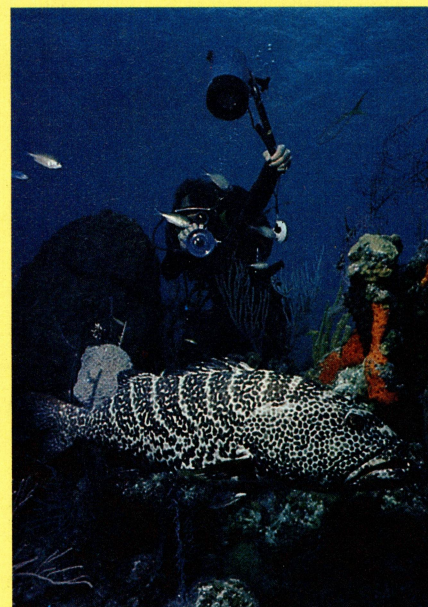
Shark Reef, Stella Maris.

squirrelfish, soldierfish, blue tang, blue runners and parrotfish. Deeper into the tunnel one can often find several huge gray angelfish cruising slowly back and forth. Underwater visibility inside the tunnel ranges from 50 to 70 feet.

There is still another ocean blue hole located in the floor of Hurricane Harbour, not more than 200 yards from Mystery Cave. This dive site is known as **Angelfish Blue Hole** because of the unusual number of angelfish that congregate around its mouth. This particular blue hole is more of a vertical tunnel, starting at a depth of 20 feet and sloping downward on a 45 degree angle to 90 feet. The entrance is approximately 60 feet in diameter, but the tunnel narrows to a very thin crevice beyond the 90 foot level.

STELLA MARIS

Approximately 30 miles east of George Town is Stella Maris, a vacation resort community at the northern end of Long Island. Stella Maris is a fairly large resort complex with accommodations for up to 160 guests. Owned and operated by three German hoteliers, this resort caters to visitors from Europe, Canada and the



Barracuda Heads, Stella Maris.

United States. Hotel facilities include three swimming pools, tennis courts, a large marina and an adjacent airport facility. The resort also has a complete dive shop and several dive boats for daily reef trips.

Stella Maris offers one of the most unique and thrilling dive experiences to be found anywhere in the Bahamas or Caribbean. At least once a week, adventurous dive guests are taken on an escorted shark dive at the world famous **Shark Reef**, five and one-half miles south of the marina.

Divemaster, Jason Burrough, leads his guests to a coral reef and adjacent sand patch in 50 feet of water. After lining up the dive guests on the coral reef like football fans in the bleachers, Jason stakes out fish bait on the sandy bottom 15 feet from the waiting divers. Within two minutes a shark appears at the outer edges of visibility. Soon, two more appear, quickly followed by an additional

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Stella Maris also offers a wide selection of non-shark coral reefs, wrecks, and dropoffs. In fact, beautiful scuba dives and shallow reef snorkel trips is our main business. Over 25 different diving spots are charted and dived regularly. Our favorites include: Angelfish Reef, Grouper Valley, Flamingo Tongue Reef, Poseidon Point, Barracuda Heads, North Wall, Big Reef, Candelabra Reef, and Santa Maria Reef. Reefs range in depth from 10 to 60 feet. Wall dives run from 55 to 130 feet. Special all day excursions to nearby islands and such world famous dives as: Conception Island Wall, Southampton Wrecks, Rum Cay Wall, and Ocean Conqueror Wreck.

Stella Maris is a large scale Out Island resort which specializes in scuba diving, snorkeling, and water-sports. We have our own marina and boat repair center. We have a large paved runway which can accommodate all types of private aircraft up to small jets. Our dive boat fleet includes four large custom built craft. We maintain a full dive shop with 120 rental tanks, 4 air compressors, a scuba classroom, and training pool. A custom built dive truck can carry 25 divers for nearby beach dives. Enjoy the hotel's 3 swimming pools, private beach, festive cocktail lounge, cave party barbecue, steak cook-out, and continental style cuisine. The staff is cordial and the atmosphere is casual.

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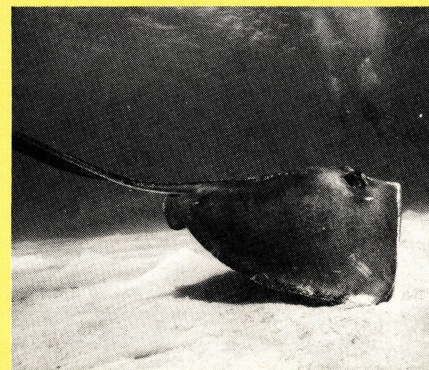
Snapshot Reef, San Salvador.

three. It is almost as though someone has sounded a dinner bell.

At first, the sharks are cautious. They cruise back and forth on the sand 20 feet away from the fish bait. Their tactics change as they pick up the scent of the fish. The sharks begin to circle the bait until one boldly snatches the offering and quickly swims off with several others in hot pursuit. The entire performance occurs in full view of the observing divers as they sit spellbound on the coral reef. It appears that the divemasters at Stella Maris have trained their sharks to remain on the sand patch while the observing divers stick close to the safety of the coral reef. Each group has its own, well defined territory.

Still another spectacular dive in the Stella Maris area is this resort's weekly trip to the **Conception Island Wall**. It is reputed to be one of the most beautiful drop-offs in the entire Bahamas. Conception is an uninhabited island, a national bird sanctuary, 14 miles northeast of Stella Maris. Because of its remote location, this drop-off is seldom dived by anyone other than visitors from Stella Maris. The top of the wall begins at 50 feet and drops vertically to 1000 feet or

Trumpetfish Reef, Stella Maris.



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The Grotto, Rum Cay.

more. The vertical face of the wall is adorned with giant gorgonian fans, huge seaweeds and large trees of black coral. There are colorful sponges of all shades, shapes and sizes. The face of the wall is deeply etched with coral crevices, overhangs and small caves. It is an extremely beautiful drop-off dive with visibility averaging 200 feet or better.

RUM CAY

Twenty miles east of Stella Maris is the small island of Rum Cay. With a total population of only 70 Bahamians, it is virtually unknown to travel agents.

In July of this year, the Rum Cay Diving Club opened its doors for business, making it the newest and smallest dive resort in the Bahamas. With a total of seven rooms, this resort can comfortably handle 14 divers on a weekly basis.

Despite its small size, the Rum Cay Diving Club has all of the most modern facilities, including a kitchen, two air compressors, 100 scuba tanks, a photo darkroom, two dive boats and a hot tub. Each bungalow cottage is equipped with solar panels for hot water heating and its own windmill for generating electricity.

The resort has a newly graded landing strip and guests are flown in from Ft. Lauderdale by private air charter service.

One of the most spectacular dives at Rum Cay is a site called **The Chimney**. It is located less than one-half mile from the resort and can be reached by boat in five minutes. The top of this drop-off begins at 50 feet. There is a hole in the top of the reef approximately eight feet long and four feet wide. Upon entering this hole a diver can descend a vertical tunnel or chimney to a depth of 90 feet. The bottom of the chimney opens into a large coral grotto with a white sand floor. Underwater visibility averages 150 feet and the reef is loaded with all types of fish. Emerging from the coral grotto, one can follow a sandy ravine that eventually spills out onto the vertical drop-off at 130 feet. The sight is spectacular and there is a wide variety of giant sponges and gorgonian fans suitable for underwater photography.

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Staghorn Reef, San Salvador.

SAN SALVADOR

Thirty miles northeast of Rum Cay lies the island of San Salvador. It juts far out into the open Atlantic, standing somewhat apart from the rest of the Bahamas chain. Perhaps its unusual geographic position accounts for the remarkable marine life that exists in the waters around this island.

San Salvador is the home of the Riding Rock Inn, the largest and most successful dive resort hotel in the Bahamas. With a total of 30 rooms, this small island resort can accommodate up to 62 divers on a weekly basis. Located on the western side of the island, this resort facility has its own airport, swimming pool, tennis court, marina, dive shop and underwater photo center. The dive shop is one of the largest in the Bahamas, with three air compressors, 285 scuba tanks and a fleet of four Flattop dive boats. Visiting divers are guaranteed three scheduled dives daily including two wall dives. Each dive boat is crewed by a licensed boat skipper and a certified divemaster.

Adjacent to the dive shop is the Underwater Photo Center, managed by Dave Woodward. This facility includes a modern classroom, an underwater camera rental department and a custom lab for E-6 color film processing and Cibachrome print-making. Woodward conducts underwater photo courses twice weekly and processes color film on a nightly basis.

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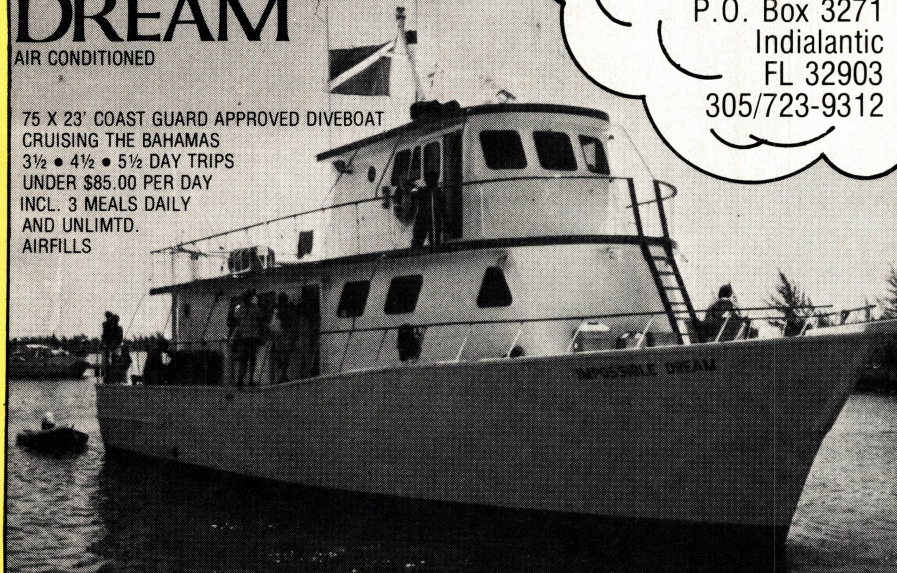
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The very best dive at San Salvador is
French Bay Wall, on the south shore of
the island. The top of the drop-off begins
at 45 feet. Huge beds of giant staghorn
coral crown the top of the reef. The wall
drops vertically from 45 to 160 feet. The
face is deeply etched with vertical crev-
ices, partially covered chimneys and
winding tunnels which burst out onto the
drop-off. Huge, black gorgonian fans
intermix with brilliantly colored sponges
to form a stunning array of marine life. At
a depth of 110 feet, there is a forest of
black coral trees — perhaps 40 in all.
The reef is jam-packed with all types of
corals and huge basket sponges that
will tempt any photographer.

French Bay Wall is an incredibly busy



Snorkeling at San Salvador.

place for big fish traffic and a diver is
likely to see almost anything there.
Giant groupers, large turtles and schools
of spotted eagle rays are considered
common occurrences. On one dive
several divers sighted a school of six
hammerheads swimming in tight forma-
tion at a depth of 150 feet. On another
dive, two divers encountered a giant
tuna estimated to weigh 400 pounds.
Horse-eye jacks and amberjacks are
also seen cruising this wall on an almost
regular basis. French Bay Wall could
easily be rated as one of the best drop-
offs in the Bahamas.

Closer to home is a newly discovered
drop-off called **Sand Castles**. This reef
is on the west side of San Salvador, with-
in a ten minute boat ride from the marina.
The top of the wall begins at a depth of
40 feet and slants downward on a 45
degree angle to the 110 foot level where
it suddenly goes vertical. It is a sloping
sand reef with massive coral heads rising
up 20 to 40 feet like giant fairyland
castles. Each coral head is loaded with
gorgonian fans, seaweeds and sponges
which cover almost every square inch of
the formation. Underwater visibility aver-
ages 150 feet at this location.

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to fly into the Bahamas as there are islands to visit.

Bahamasair, the national airline of the Bahamas, operates daily jet flights from Miami to both Nassau and Freeport. There is also a flight from Ft. Lauderdale to both Nassau and Freeport. The newest U.S. service is a flight from Atlanta to Nassau. In addition, Bahamasair operates daily turbo-prop flights from Nassau to practically all of the major out islands in the Bahamas chain. This airline has one of the most complete air route networks throughout the Bahamas and into the U.S.

In addition to Bahamasair there are many major U.S. carriers who also serve the Bahamas. Eastern Airlines operates



Bahamasair operates convenient jet flights from Miami to Nassau and turboprop flights from Nassau to all of the outlying islands.

four jet flights daily from Miami to Nassau. Air Florida has a flight from Ft. Lauderdale to Freeport. Delta is running a flight from Atlanta to Nassau. American Airlines, Delta and Eastern all fly from New York to Nassau. Air Jamaica has a flight twice weekly from Philadelphia to Nassau.

There are also many small carriers operating flights in the Bahamas. For example, Chalk's International flies from Miami to Nassau. Trans-Island Airways has air taxi service throughout the Bahama Islands plus flights into four different cities in Florida.

Still another alternative is the private charter flights which many dive resort operators use as a convenient transportation service to the more remote out islands. Walker's Cay operates daily flights from Ft. Lauderdale directly into Walker's Cay. Columbus Landings schedules three flights weekly from Ft. Lauderdale to San Salvador. Rum Cay Diving Club has a weekly flight from Ft. Lauderdale to Rum Cay. Neil Watson arranges charter flights from Ft. Lauderdale to Bimini.

For further information about flights or hotel reservations, you can call the Bahamas Reservation Service. The U.S. toll free telephone number is: (800) 327-0787. In Florida, call: (800) 432-5594 toll free.

U.S. citizens visiting the Bahamas need proof of their citizenship. A birth certificate or voter's registration card are adequate, but a passport is better. ✕

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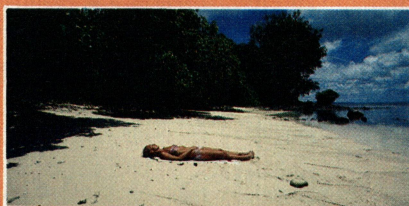
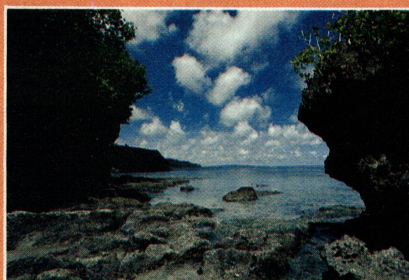
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SECTION



photos/George N. Peterson

There are crystal clear waters; vast underwater coral gardens teeming with marine life; a unique blue hole; extensive caverns; shipwrecks; and sheer vertical walls covered with majestic seafans. For a scuba diver this represents near-Utopia. Sound too good to be true? Welcome to the underwater world of Guam.

Guam has long been the "jumping off" point for divers on their way to exotic Palau, or the wrecks of Truk Lagoon. Only recently has it been discovered that Guam offers exceptional diving on its own — a fact that local divers have kept smugly to themselves for years.

Roughly 3600 miles west of Honolulu and 1600 miles southeast of Japan, Guam is the southernmost link in the Marianas Islands chain in Micronesia. Warmed by constant 82°F tropical waters, the fringing barrier reef surrounding Guam is home to more than 200 varieties of corals, which support an extraordinary community of tropical marine inhabitants. From the soft, delicate nudibranchs, to large pelagic sea bass, each resident adds its own personality to the constantly changing atmosphere of mys-

GUAM U/W It's Exceptional!

By George N. Peterson

tery and spectacular beauty on these living reefs.

Almost all of the diving on Guam is done on the western, or leeward side of the island due to the prevailing easterly trade winds. Reef walkers, snorkelers and divers have easy access to more than 15 miles of these protected coral reefs. In fact, there's so much diversity that local divers are faced with the pleasant dilemma of not only having to decide where to dive, but what to dive on! Whether a simple walk-in over the reef, or a short boat ride outside the reefs, the diver is guaranteed a totally enjoyable and rewarding experience.

One of the favorite locations is the water inside Apra Harbor, Guam's centrally located commercial shipping hub. Apra Harbor is a large, deep-water harbor, naturally protected by the Glas breakwater on the northern side, and by the cliffs of Orote

Point on the other. Permanent residents of the harbor include the remains of numerous planes, ships and other wreckage from past wars. The remarkable part of diving on the shipwrecks is that all of them can be reached by only a short five minute boat ride. What's more, it's easily possible to visit two separate ships, sunk 26 years apart, on the same dive!

Perhaps the best known of these wrecks is the *Tokai Maru*, a large Japanese freighter. She was torpedoed in two separate attacks in 1943, and finally settled to the bottom on her port side. Her uppermost deck is only 40 feet beneath the surface and even the most inexperienced diver soon becomes captured with the fascination and mystique of this once-proud ship.

Lying almost perpendicular alongside the *Tokai* are the haunting remains of the ex-German raider, *SMS Cormoran*. The *Cormoran* had the misfortune of becoming interned at Guam before the onset of World War I while fleeing from the Japanese fleet. Upon declaration of war against the United States, her captain scuttled the ship rather than turn her over to the Ameri-

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Photo: Bret Gilliam, V.I. Divers, Ltd.



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EXCEPTIONAL GUAM

cans. She now rests on a sandy bottom, her hull and deck structures unusually well preserved.

A short distance from these sister ships lies the upright remains of a large Japanese ocean-going tug. Her superstructure has bullet holes from the air raids over Guam, which ultimately led to her sinking in 1944.

Approximately 200 yards further out in the harbor is the almost totally intact *Kisogawa Maru*, a 300 foot freighter also sunk in 1944. The *Kisogawa* is the deepest of the commonly known wrecks, sitting upright on the bottom 160 feet down. Her large bow gun still stands a silent vigil over the sleeping, broken ship.

If the lure of the shipwrecks isn't enough, the diver can explore the many reefs in the harbor. While unable to match the near perfect visibility of the outside reefs, Apra Harbor has retained thriving reefs despite the ravages of past wars. Dogleg reef, extending outward from the breakwater, offers an abundance of corals and an unusual pink anemone colony, complete with damsel and clownfish. This reef is extremely popular with both snorkelers and divers, owing to its shallow 2-30 foot depths. Gab-Gab beach and reef, located on the U.S. Naval Station, has an enormous assortment of both soft and hard corals, sea anemones and sharply descending crevices to depths well below 100 feet. All this only 25 yards from the shoreline!

Two reefs, Western and Jade Shoals, draw special attention from shell collectors, contributing many varieties to the attentive snorkeler or diver.

On the seaward side of the harbor, near Cabras Island, the diver will find a breathtaking view of steep vertical walls dotted with gently swaying seafans and deep-water corals. Literally thousands of reef fish move *en masse* here on their continual search for food.

A short boat ride outside and around the cliffines of Orote Peninsula provides the most uniquely different and memorable dive on Guam, the famous Blue Hole. On top of a subterranean plateau which abruptly drops to depths well below 600 feet, the Blue Hole is a natural shaft-like opening. Formed millions of years ago by rainwater slowly eroding and undermining the existing limestone formations, it extends downward into the plateau from 60 to 280 feet. A large window opens to the sea, offering an alternate gateway out of the hole and into the emerald blue waters of the Philippine Sea.

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(Continued on Page 110)

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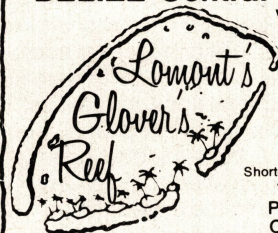
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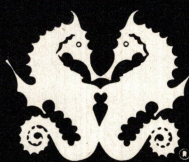
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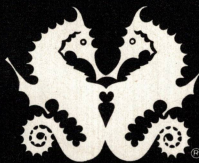
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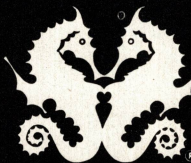
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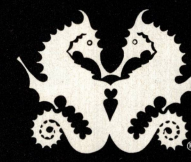
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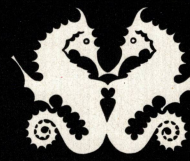
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Left, an easy entry from the bow of Bob Soto's custom dive boat, Reef Dive.



The Main Tower of the Holiday Inn is on the beach.



A diver feeds colorful fish at Aquarium Reef.



The Holiday Inn dive shop.

Grand Cayman's Holiday Inn

Largest Dive Resort in the West Indies

Text and Photography by Geri Murphy

The Grand Caymanian Holiday Inn is like no other Holiday Inn you have ever seen. An elegant beach resort complex, it has an exhausting array of leisure sport activity and evening entertainment. Not a traditional off-the-highway hotel, the Grand Caymanian is on the mid-Caribbean island of Grand Cayman. It is, perhaps, the largest and most popular dive resort hotel in the British West Indies.

With 217 air-conditioned rooms, a dive shop on the premises and a fleet of dive boats lined up on the beach, the Grand Caymanian has become the dive industry's answer to the snow ski resort

concept. Each year, thousands of eager scuba divers make this hotel their vacation home for a week of exhilarating underwater thrills along the fantastic drop-offs which lie less than one-quarter mile away.

Grand Cayman is one of the last remaining British Colonial islands, 480 miles south of Miami in the very heart of the blue Caribbean. Over the past 20 years, Grand Cayman has emerged from its quiet solitude to become a roaring boom town for vacationing scuba divers and condominium developers. Today, it ranks as one of the top three destinations in the world for traveling divers, and hosts

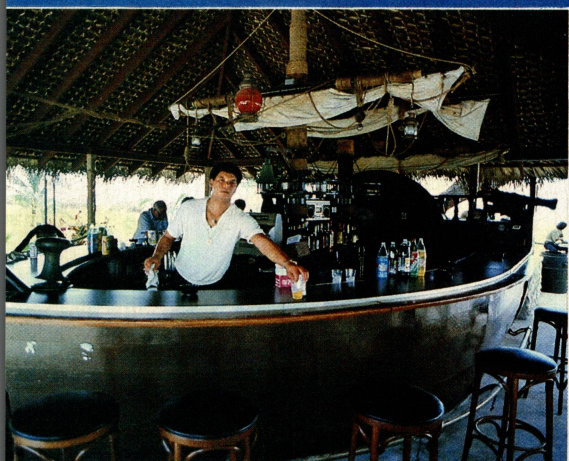
an estimated 40,000 scuba visitors annually. Grand Cayman has more dive shops per mile than any other island in the world.

The Grand Caymanian is almost at the center of world famous Seven Mile Beach, an absolutely gorgeous crescent of wide, white sandy beach on the western side of the island. Because of its geographic position, Seven Mile Beach lies in the protected lee of the normal Caribbean trade winds. On most days of the year the sea off this beach is glassy calm and the color of sapphire gems. Directly off this beach, barely one-quarter of a mile out, lies one of the world's most

famous coral drop-offs and no less than 35 other fabulous dive sites.

Because of its white sand, calm sea and marvelous diving, Seven Mile Beach has become Grand Cayman's Gold Coast. During the last decade, this stretch of beachfront has become quickly transformed into a neat row of hotels and expensive condominiums. While not overly crowded, it has become fully occupied.

The Holiday Inn occupies over 1500



The Corsair Wharf bar — right on the beach.

feet of the most expensive beachfront on Grand Cayman. Obviously, this hotel staked its claim early in the game, when real estate prices were more reasonable. The property is now dominated by two large multi-story buildings which house the guest rooms and the hotel's main lobby area. The Brac Wing is the newer three story addition which runs parallel to the beach. Between these two buildings are the hotel's two restaurants, night club and swimming pool.

The Grand Caymanian offers a wide variety of guest room accommodations — five different categories. The least expensive is the Standard Room, facing the tennis courts or swimming pool area. The most expensive is an Ocean Front Deluxe in the Main Tower with a balcony overlooking Seven Mile Beach and the ocean. In-between these two extremes are three more categories including a Superior Room, a King Leisure Room, and an Ocean Front Special in the Brac Wing. The choice depends on the diver's budget and room availability.

The Grand Caymanian is a complete and self-sufficient beach resort with just about every imaginable activity right on the premises. Water sports activities include the rental of Hobie Cats, Sunfish, and Jet Skis — all under the supervision of Aqua Delights, owned and operated by Jim Brown and Jerry Riggle. This is a newly established water sports concession right on the beach. In addition to the water sports, there are four tennis courts



The beautiful grounds outside the new Brac Wing of the Holiday Inn.

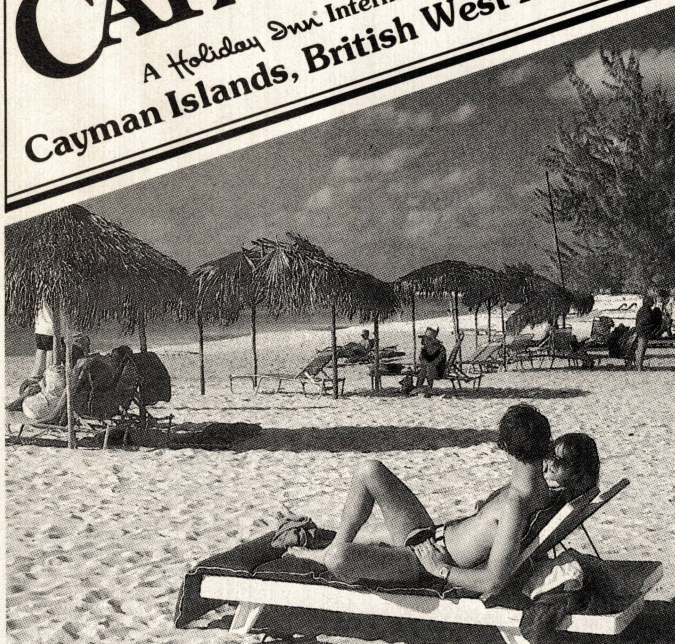


The Holiday Inn's freshwater pool offers an alternative to the ocean.



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Man" . . . Dive instruction, from resort courses to certification, are available at the Grand Caymanian from Bob Soto's Dive Shop . . . and dive boats pick up from the beach . . . you're only moments away from Cayman's best dive sites. So come . . . get your feet wet . . . and add that special touch of class to your Cayman diving holiday at the Grand Caymanian. Call or write today for rates and reservations: The Grand Caymanian Holiday Inn, Suite 205, 7220 N.W. 36th Street, Miami, Florida 33166. Phone nationwide, toll free 800-327-4069 or in Florida, 305-592-8175.



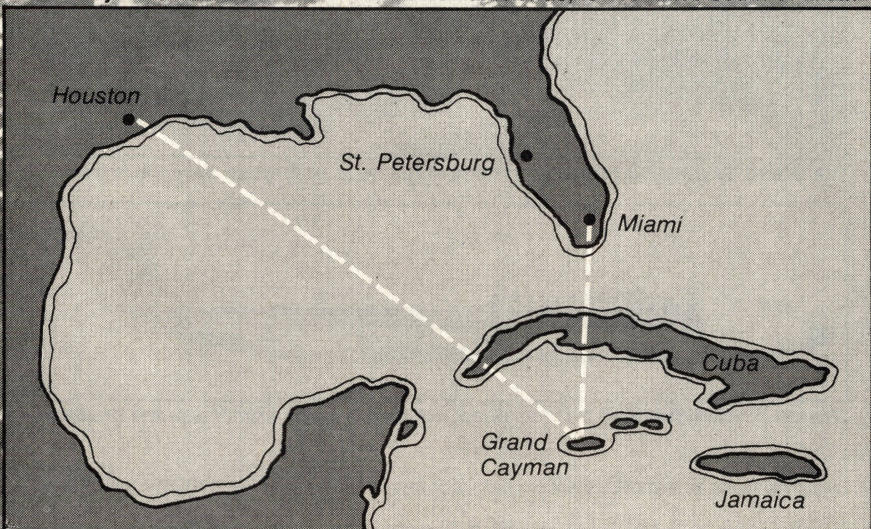
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Grand Cayman, one of the last British Colonial islands, is 480 miles south of Miami.



equipped with night lighting, a shuffleboard court, and a volleyball court. However, the most common activities on the Holiday Inn beach are sunbathing and swimming.

Perhaps the most popular spot on the Holiday Inn beach is the Corsair Wharf, a delightful outdoor bar situated between the swimming pool and the beach. During the warm afternoons and early evenings, this is a favorite congregation point or vacationers and islanders to enjoy a cool cocktail and a breathtaking view of the magnificent sunsets which take place directly off the beach.

Across the swimming pool from the Corsair is The Veranda, the Holiday Inn's general dining room for breakfast, lunch or dinner. It is here that most of the hotel's hungry guests end up after a busy morning of scuba diving. You'll find them either sitting around the pool or indoors, happily munching on a big cheeseburger or a plate of delicious grouper fingers, washed down with an iced tea or milkshake. The dining room area is open from 7:00 am till 11:00 pm at night.

The main water sports activities at the Grand Caymanian are most definitely scuba diving and snorkeling. Bob Soto's Diving Center is right on the hotel premises, less than 60 feet from the water's edge. Soto's is the oldest and largest diving operation on Grand Cayman, consisting of a chain of four dive centers at various locations around the island. The Holiday Inn operation is the largest of the chain. It is the main booking office for daily dive trips and the point of departure for the Soto fleet of customized dive boats. This operation is managed by Georgia Dolack, a certified scuba instructor and divemaster.

The Soto Diving Operation has just recently changed management and undergone a complete renovation and expansion. It is now owned and operated by Ron Kip, a former IBM executive from Columbus, Ohio. Bob Soto, the original founder, remains chairman of the board and is still actively involved in the business. Ron Kip has an impressive staff of 23 employees, 12 of whom are certified scuba instructors and divemasters. The giant Soto Diving Operation consists of a fleet of four dive boats and an estimated 200 rental scuba tanks. The largest craft is the *Holiday Diver*, a giant 52 foot double-deck dive barge with a drop-front ramp. This custom built dive boat can literally drive up on the hotel beach and allow 30 scuba divers to board with ease and simplicity. This craft has just been overhauled and now features such improvements as VHF radio, first-aid kit, emergency oxygen supply, and a stern floatline.

The *Reef Diver* is the second largest craft in the Soto Fleet, measuring 45 feet in length and also sporting a drop-front ramp. It can carry 20 divers comfortably and has also been modified to include all of the latest dive safety equipment. The *Soto Glass Bottom* is 42 feet long and is occasionally used to carry divers during Cayman's busy season. Fourth in the fleet is a 36 foot Sport Fisherman, used for special dive charters and private groups.

The Soto Fleet of dive boats operates seven days a week making a trip in the morning and a trip in the afternoon. The morning trip departs from the beach at 9:00 am and allows divers two dives at different locations. The first is usually conducted on one of Cayman's spectacular drop-offs such as **Big Tunnel, Trinity Caves, Sand Chute or Orange Canyon.** Cayman's drop-offs begin at an average depth of 50 feet and drop vertically to 100 feet and beyond. It is along these that visitors will find some of the largest and most beautiful sponges in the Caribbean. Underwater visibility can range anywhere from 100 to 200 feet. The drop-off is a busy causeway for marine life and visitors frequently see eagle rays, horse-eye jacks, turtles and other pelagic creatures.

The second dive of the morning is generally made on one of the shallow but beautiful coral reefs inshore from the drop-off. Dive depths on these reefs range from 25 to 40 feet, and most locations are loaded with tame reef fish that will literally eat from your hand. The most popular locations include: **Holiday Reef, The Aquarium, Mitch Miller Reef and Peter's Reef.**

The afternoon dive trip departs from

the Holiday Inn beach at 2:00 pm. It is usually a single tank dive on a medium depth coral reef or the wreck of the *Balboa*. Depths range from 40 to 55 feet, well within the limits of the repetitive dive tables. The wreck of the *Balboa* is one of the most fascinating underwater junkyards to be found anywhere in the Caribbean. This steel-hulled freighter was dynamited many years ago and is now spread over several acres of ocean bottom. The wreck is loaded with marine life, including a school of voracious sergeant majors who almost smother the divers with affection.

On Sunday mornings the Soto Diving Center schedules its weekly visit to the wreck of the *Oro Verde* for the second dive. This is a totally intact steel freighter which lies on its starboard side in 50 feet of water. Visibility at this location frequently exceeds 100 feet, thus affording a breathtaking view of almost the entire sunken ship.

Because of the popularity of the regularly scheduled Soto Dive Trips, visiting divers are urged to make their trip reservations on the prior day. Seating on each boat is limited and reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Divers can make reservations simply by telephoning Georgia at Grand Cayman 92483. For information on special charters or group programs, you can write to Ron Kip, President, Bob Soto's Diving Ltd., P.O. Box 1801, Grand Cayman, B.W.I.

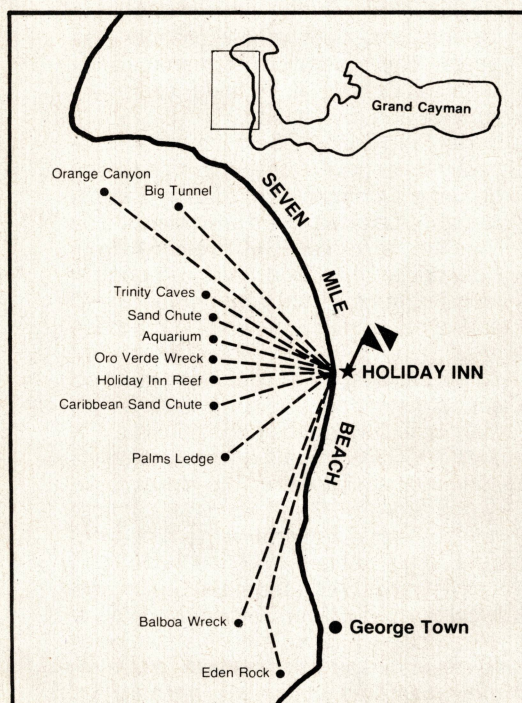
Scuba diving and water sports are only half the story at the Grand Caymanian Holiday Inn. Sunset heralds the beginning of a whole new world of nighttime activities that are equally as exciting as

the daytime sports program.

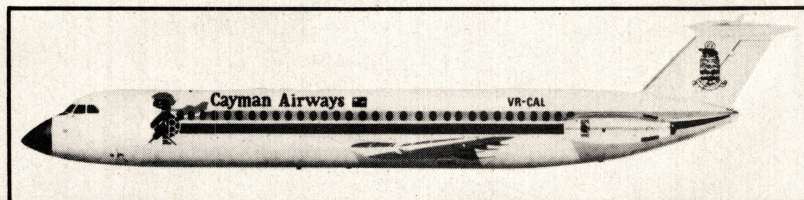
Prior to dinner, you can enjoy a drink or two at the Pirate's Cove, a cozy cocktail lounge adjacent to The Veranda. In addition to the main dining room, there is a special gourmet restaurant located just off the lobby. The *Chez Jacques* is open in the evening only from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. This elegant restaurant specializes in continental cuisine, including escargot as an appetizer, and a very tender filet mignon for an entree.

Next door to the *Chez Jacques* is the Wreck of the Ten Sails, Grand Cayman's most popular night club. It features live entertainment six nights a week, including a band and on-stage acts. The club will hold a maximum of 200 people and is generally packed from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am. The major attraction at the Holiday Inn night club is the Barefoot Man and his Caymanian band. Every night he entertains the audience with a wide variety of songs including calypso, country and western, rock and roll, and pop music. The Barefoot Man is not only an entertaining singer but also a talented song writer as well. He became an international star in the dive world by producing a musical album entitled *Scuba Do*. Soon to be released is his second album of dive songs entitled *Scuba Do II*.

For more information about activities or reservations, you can contact the Grand Caymanian Holiday Inn, Suite 205, 7220 N.E. 36th Street, Miami, FL 33166. If you are in a hurry to get reservations you can telephone (305) 592-8175. If you are looking for a great beach resort hotel with a swinging atmosphere, lots of activities and plenty of diving, the Grand Caymanian may be just the ticket. 🐠



The Grand Caymanian Holiday Inn rests at the heart of famous Seven Mile Beach.

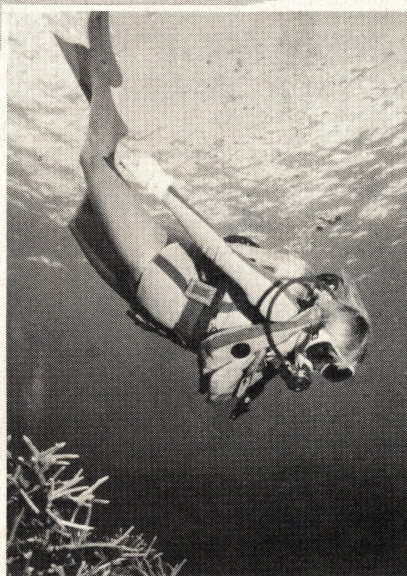
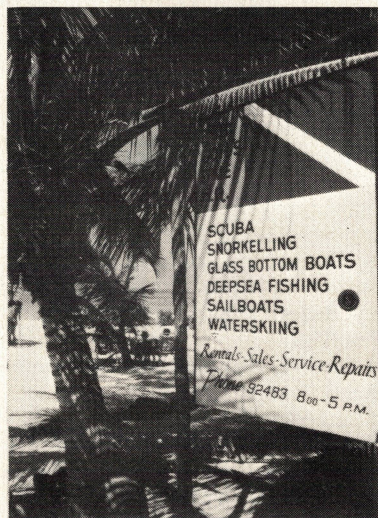


Cayman Airways flies BAC 1-11 jets direct to Grand Cayman from Miami and Houston.

Left, The Holiday Inn offers divers easy access to the best of Grand Cayman diving.

Cayman

the Bob Soto way



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BONAIRE TOURS

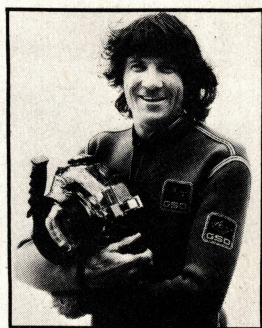
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U/W PHOTO COURSES

Flip Schulke will be teaching underwater photography classes for the Tropic Isle Dive Shop in Key Largo. The classes began in August and will run three and five days.

Flip has photographed the underwater world for over 25 years. His work has



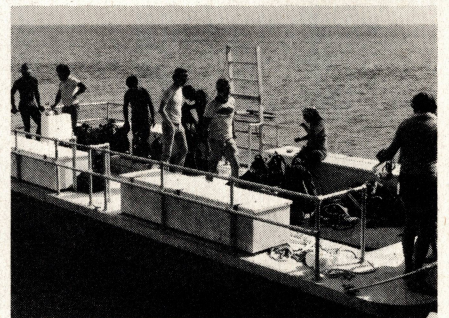
photo/Debra Streuber Schulke

appeared in National Geographic, Newsweek, Time, Life, SKIN DIVER, and the Encyclopedia Britannica. His latest book is entitled *Underwater Photography for Everyone*.

For dates and information on the courses contact: Charlotte Crawford, Tropic Isle Dive Shop, P.O. Box 755, Key Largo, FL 33037; (305) 451-1063.

SMALL HOPE BAY DIVE BOAT

With a house full of guests and a full moon, owners Dick and Rosi Birch of Small Hope Bay Lodge, Andros Island, launched their new dive boat to the

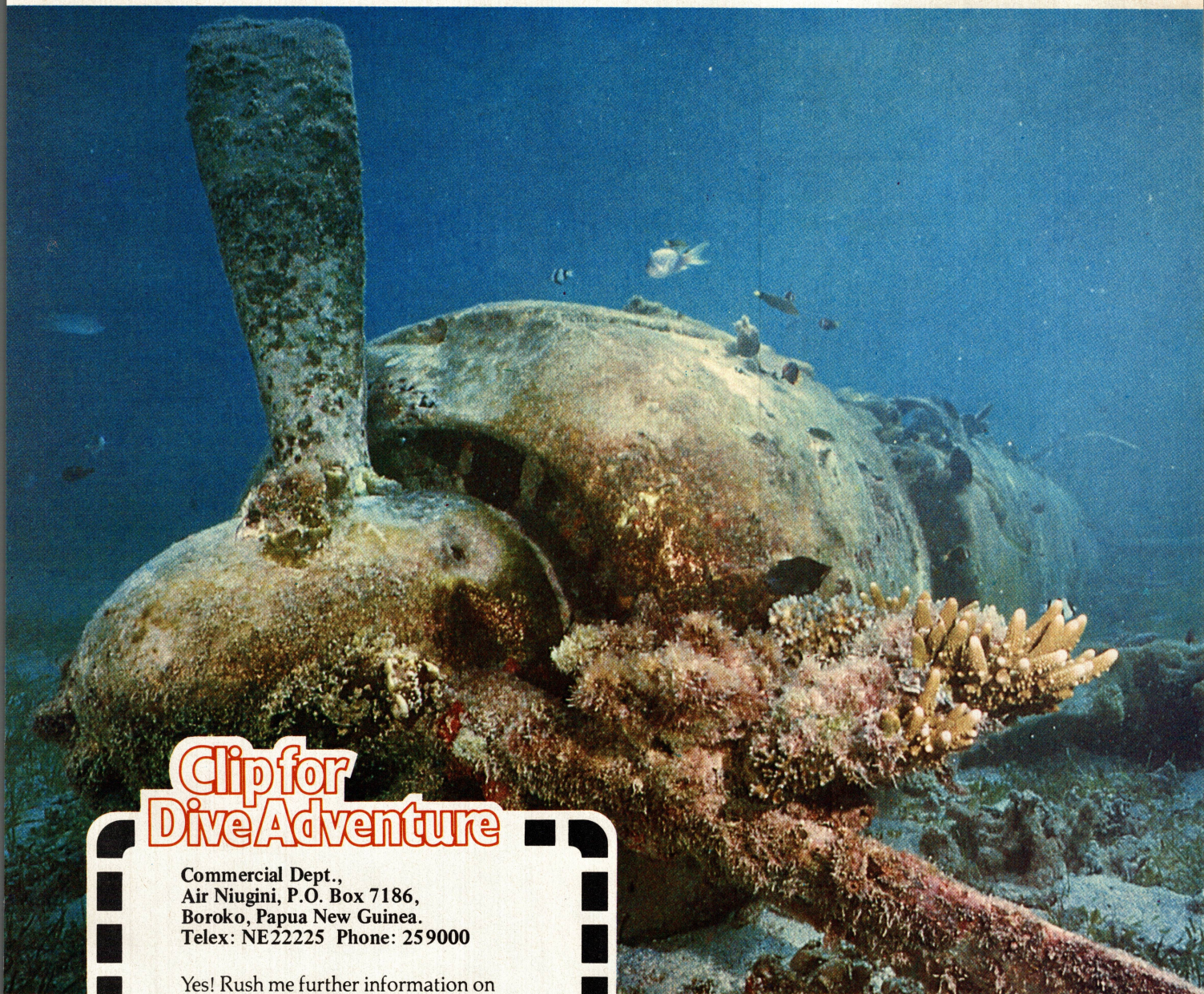


sounds of popping wine corks and purring engines. *The Last Resort* was on her maiden voyage. Thirty-four guests, friends and family of Small Hope Bay Lodge, cruised on a glassy sea dappled by moonlight — singing Bahamian songs, toasting the celebration and dancing on the spacious deck.

The Last Resort is a 35 foot tri-hull flat-top powered by twin 135 hp Chryslers. It can accommodate up to 24 divers. Small Hope Bay Lodge also runs two other flat-tops out to the 142 mile long Andros Reef.

For more information, write airmail to: Small Hope Bay Lodge, P.O. Box N1131, Nassau, Bahamas; or phone direct (809) 328-2014; toll free (800) 327-3139.

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CAYMAN ISLANDS TOURS

Four day/three night and eight day/seven night scuba tours to Grand Cayman are available for divers, with non-diver options through Dec. 15. Prices, per person, double occupancy, for the shorter and longer stays, respectively, are \$269 and \$509 for divers, and \$189 and \$339 for non-divers. Departures are guaranteed for Sept. 11, Oct. 16, and Nov. 26.

The packages include accommodations at the Beach Club Colony Resort on Seven Mile Beach, roundtrip airport transfers, breakfast and dinner daily, two boat dives daily on the shorter tour and 12 boat dives on the longer one.

For more information, contact any travel agent, or Weekends Away Travel, Inc., P.O. Box 6698, Hollywood, FL 33021; telephone toll-free in the U.S. (800)327-9543, in Dade County (305) 621-7777 and in Broward County (305) 966-2777.

AIR FLORIDA TO JAMAICA

Air Florida is promoting The Great Jamaica Scuba Package, an eight day/seven night tour through December 15. The package includes accommodations at Mallards Beach-Hyatt in Ocho Rios, and is priced from \$349 to \$391 per person, double occupancy.

For divers holding internationally recognized dive certification, the package includes five dives. For non-divers, the package includes instruction, snorkeling trip and two ocean dives.

Air Florida provides non-stop service from Miami to Montego Bay and Kingston, with connections from Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth.

For more information, contact any travel agent, Air Florida, or the tour operator, Jamaica Resort Hotels, 1320 South Dixie Highway, Suite 1100, Coral Gables, FL 33146; phone toll-free (800) 327-5803; in Florida (305) 661-0371.

EARLE TO THE CORAL SEA

Sylvia Earle, world renown underwater botanist and ecologist, will lead an 18 day scientific dive expedition to the



Coral Sea through La Mer Diving Seafari, Inc. Dr. Earle is the chief scientist of the Ocean Trust Foundation.

The Coral Sea expedition is scheduled from November 29 through December

17, with departure from the West Coast.

The purpose of this unique expedition will be to study and view first-hand, with Dr. Earle's assistance, the interaction of plants, animals and fish, with specific regard to their habitation patterns. The La Mer Seafari will offer 14 days of virtually unlimited diving aboard the *Reef Explorer*, a 65 foot motor yacht.

A pair of individual diver propulsion vehicles will be provided to ensure maximum possible range during dives and explorations. An aerial photography safari is also included. The *Reef Explorer* has a fully equipped color processing facility for Ektachrome film. This free service provides the immediate means of on-the-spot scrutinizing of the day's shooting and will allow for camera correction or adjustments before the next day's dive.

For further information and reservations, contact La Mer Diving Seafari, Inc., 823 U.N. Plaza, Suite 810, New York, New York 10017; (212) 599-0886.

INSTRUCTOR TRAINING CENTER

Hall's Diving Center & College recently completed negotiations with NAUI. As an official NAUI Professional Development Center, Hall's will be developing additional programs to train equipment repair specialists and retail sales & management personnel. At the present time regularly scheduled courses are available through Hall's for instructor, crossover

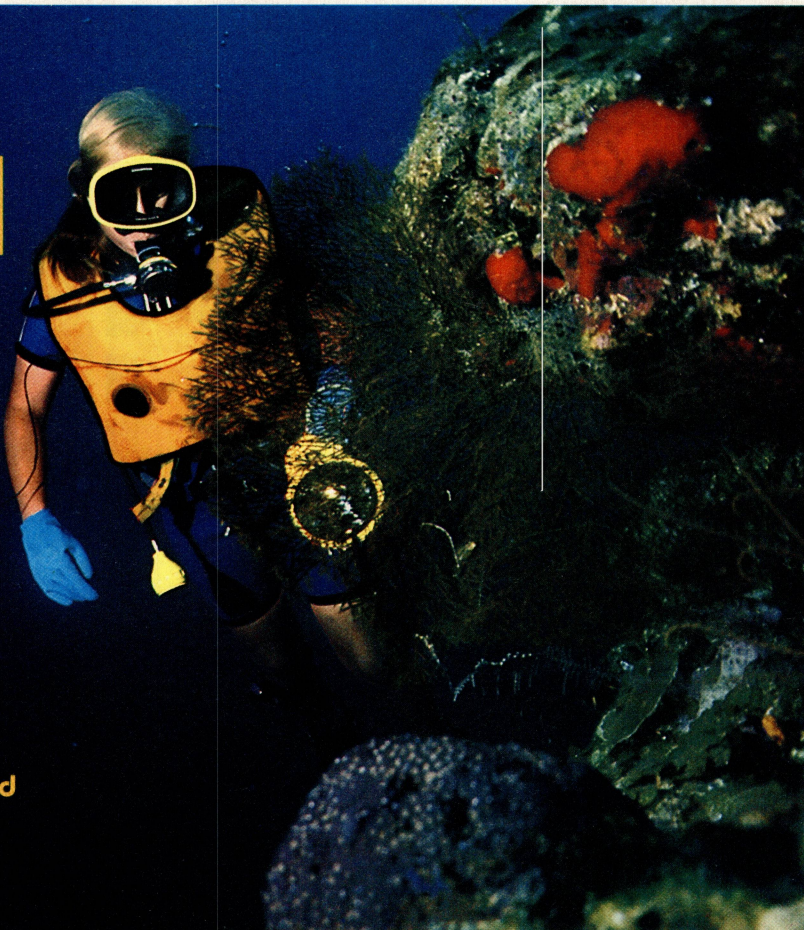
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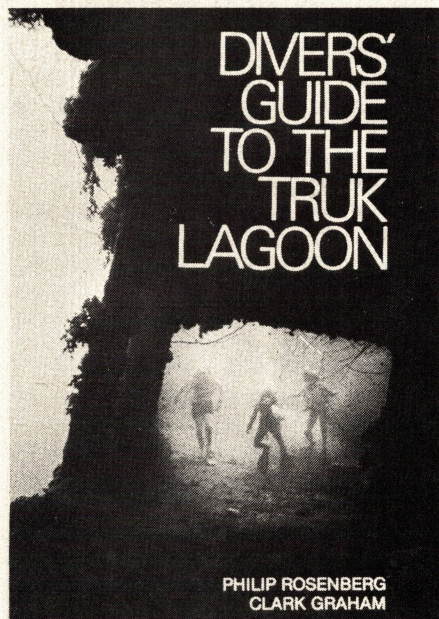
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instructor, assistant instructor, divemaster and rescue specialist. For more information contact: Hall's Diving Center & College, 1688 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, FL 33050. 🐠

TRUK GUIDE

Sea Safaris is now distributing *Divers' Guide to the Truk Lagoon*. This book offers detailed descriptions of both the his-



tory of Truk Lagoon and its man-made reefs, the world renowned underwater wrecks of Truk Lagoon.

Clark Graham, co-author of the book, is the owner of Micronesia Aquatics, Sea Safaris' dive operator on Moen Island, Truk.

The *Divers' Guide to the Truk Lagoon*, a 72 page book, offers many four-color photographs as well as maps, graphics and black-and-white photos from the National Archives.

For a copy, send \$9.95 to: Sea Safaris, 3770 Highland Ave., Suite 102, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. 🐠

DIXIE DIVE STORE

Dixie Divers, Inc. of Fort Pierce, Florida, has opened its second store. Located at 1843 S.E. Federal Hwy., Stuart, Florida, the store will offer sales, service, repairs and instruction for Martin County area scuba divers. The Stuart facility also has the 5 Star PADI rating. It will be open seven days a week. 🐠

QUIESCENCE OPENING

Quiescence Diving Services has opened its second store, Quiescence Water Sports, in Tavernier Towne Mall, Tavernier Key. The new store will specialize in sportswear and water sports-related equipment.

For more information, call (305) 852-2538; or write to P.O. Box N-13, Key Largo, FL 33037. 🐠

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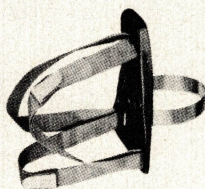


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EXCEPTIONAL GUAM

(Continued from Page 95)

outer edges of the hole. Inside are soft, delicate gorgonian corals, beds of large, thin, orange seaweeds and schools of the ever-present squirrelfish guarding the deep crevices and lobster holes found on one side of the Blue Hole.

The window of the hole opens directly onto the side of the underwater cliffline. Turning either right or left the diver can clearly see forests of both large and small seafans, with their carefully interwoven coral polyps fully extended to capture food from the plankton enriched waters. Swimming over for a closer inspection, the diver will discover that some of these fans are, in fact, exotic black coral formations, complete with spiny starfish clusters clinging to their branches.

Larger species of marine life are not uncommon at the Blue Hole. Schools of blunt-headed wrasse, jacks and an occasional leopard ray or sea turtle will leisurely coast by.

One of the most unforgettable experiences for any diver, regardless of his/her experience, is to free-fall from the surface into and through the Blue Hole, exiting out through the window. Before ascending, a final moment is taken to pause above this natural wonder and silently reflect on the awesome splendor and tranquility that only the Blue Hole provides.

Close to the Blue Hole, and very convenient for a second dive, is a large underwater cavern, commonly called Torpedo Rocks. With a maximum depth of 25 feet, and water equaling the clarity of spring water, the cavern extends 75 yards into the cliffline, and is a favorite spot for night diving, offering many species of shells, as well as the elusive spiny and slipper lobsters.

Traveling to the southern end of the island, the diver comes to Bile Bay. Here, after a short walk-in, the diver will discover a labyrinth of caverns interconnected through and underneath towering coral heads. From a sandy bottom at 60 feet, the diver can glide upward through the caverns almost effortlessly. The exits are clearly marked by the sun's rays filtering inside the overhead coral pinnacles.

Cocos Island, on the southern tip of Guam, is a one mile strip of land inside a natural, reef protected lagoon. Glass bottom boats make frequent trips to the island which features white, sandy beaches and clear shallow waters. Snorkeling, waterskiing and sailing are very popular inside the lagoon, and rental equipment is available for all activities.

The popularity of snorkeling and scuba diving on Guam is astonishing. Conservative estimates place between 400-600 divers enjoying the wrecks and reefs

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each weekend, with one popular dive area averaging over 75 divers each day! A direct influence on this diving fraternity is the relatively low cost of diving on Guam. Typical rates for two boat dives (the boat returns after each dive for meals, or a stroll on the beaches) is \$10-15 per diver for the entire day. And, there is no cost (except for air or rentals) for any of the reef dives!

A complete range of snorkel and dive equipment, services, and quality instruction (from introductory dives through advanced training) is available from the island's three dive shops: Marianas Divers, Coral Reef Marine Center and International Divers Association. For military personnel and their dependents, the base exchanges also have an unusually complete selection of equipment, and the recreational facilities at the bases offer scuba training. Boat trips can be arranged through any of the shops. One dive shop, the Coral Reef Marine Center, has free guided reef dives each weekend for new or visiting divers. Any of the shops will gladly furnish directions and some friendly advice on any of the dive areas.

For all underwater enthusiasts, whether snorkelers or divers, the enchantment of this inner world of guarded serenity and unimaginable beauty makes the waters of Guam irresistible. 🐠

FRENCH DIP

Nancy and Bob French, of Sea Safaris, will be leading a November tour to Tahiti and Manihi in French Polynesia. Sea Safaris is the exclusive agent for the



Kaina Village Resort on Manihi. The resort has three compressors, a black pearl farm, secluded beaches and exotic fish and corals in the atoll's pass.

The November tour offers group air fare. For more details contact: Sea Safaris at: 3770 Highland Avenue, Suite 102, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266; (213) 546-2464. 🐠

SPANISH COVE IN CAYMAN

Spanish Bay Reef, Grand Cayman, has been sold. Pete Ribbins, managing director, has renamed the property Spanish Cove Resort. Spence Campbell has been appointed dive operations manager.

An expansion program is currently underway and the dive operation as well as the hotel will be bigger and better than ever.

Watch SKIN DIVER Magazine for reopening announcements, or contact Pete Ribbins, Spanish Cove Resort, P.O. Box 1014, Grand Cayman, B.W.I. 🐠

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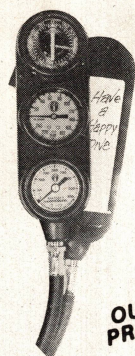
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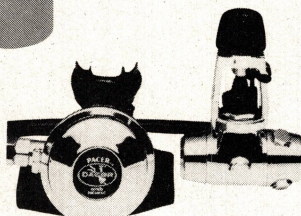
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YUCATAN ALTERNATIVE

The Mexican Caribbean, with its palm-shaded, white, powdery beaches and clear water, is very different from the interior of the Yucatan Peninsula, where one discovers the sophisticated civilizations and imposing stone structures of ancient Mayan cities and religious centers.

For a refreshing and unusual interlude in the Yucatan, spend a few days right at the historic sites. Instead of frantic, day-long return bus journeys to these areas, simply walk there at your leisure. This is uniquely possible at both Chichen Itza and Uxmal. Adjacent to these large archaeological restoration zones are three excellent hotels — the Mayaland, the Hacienda Chichen and the Hacienda Uxmal. All are owned and operated by Carmen Barbachano, whose family pioneered tourism in the Yucatan three generations ago, and each hotel reflects the family's distinctive feel for the atmosphere of the region. Each has a swimming pool, restaurant, indoor-outdoor service bar, gift shop, extensive tropical gardens with fruit-bearing and flowering trees, and a tradition of exceptional service.

The Hacienda Uxmal is directly across the road from the archaeological zone. Every room in this colonial style hotel opens onto wide, shady verandas facing the gardens and the patio. A special delight for guests here is the nightly light and sound show at the temples.

Both the Mayaland and the Hacienda Chichen, which adjoin the Chichen Itza zone, feature charming garden cottages of native-inspired architecture. The Hotel Mayaland, whose central wing has spacious rooms with private balconies, has been host to queens, princes and presidents. The main building of the Hacienda Chichen is actually a gracefully porticoed residence built in the 17th century for a representative of the King of Spain.

Special seasonal European Plan rates per room — ranging from \$39 for a single to \$56 for a party of three — apply until December 14. Reservations and/or additional information is available from your travel agent or from Maya-Caribe Travel, 14 West 95th Street, New York, New York 10025.

NEW GUINEA ASST. INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Paradise Island's Village Resort at Nagada Harbor, Papua New Guinea, will be the site of a NAUI assistant instructor certification course September 18-20. The course is part of the resort's one-year anniversary celebration.

The course will be directed by Lou Fead, chief instructor of the Underwater

Explorer's Society of Freeport, Grand Bahama. Fead is author of the book *Easy Diver* and a member of the board of directors of NAUI.

The course is sponsored by Paradise Islands Pty., Ltd., of Madang, PNG, and Waterlou Enterprises of Miami, Florida. Bill Tewes, manager of the Madang Diving School, will assist Fead. The cost is \$225 with quadruple occupancy accommodations available for \$26 per night.

More information may be obtained from Bill Tewes at Paradise Islands, P.O. Box 208, Madang, Papua New Guinea; telephone 82 2950.

SEE & SEA TO FIJI

See & Sea Travel of San Francisco has an entirely new live-aboard dive program to the most remote and famous of Fiji's reefs, Astrolabe Lagoon. By special arrangement, See & Sea can now send groups of two to five divers on their own



personalized Fiji adventure. For ten full dive days divers can explore this untouched marine wilderness 50 miles south of Suva.

Eric Dowdall, See & Sea's Fiji host, is the foremost authority on the wonders of Astrolabe, and personally guides all groups.

For further information, contact See & Sea Travel, 680 Beach Street, Suite 340, San Francisco, California 94109; telephone (415) 771-0077.

GREEN ABALONE STUDY

One thousand small bottles were set afloat in Southern California's Pacific Ocean in June.

Mia Tegner, a marine biologist at Scripps, headed the five member team of researchers who placed the bottles — 6 inch vials — in the water at eight locations. They were dropped in kelp beds, in about 20 to 30 feet of water, in areas green abalone were expected to spawn. Green abalone larvae float similarly to the bottles — lightly on the ocean surface. Project Drop the Bottle is part of a long-range program to determine the scientific and economic feasibility of enhancing abalone populations in depleted areas. Anyone finding a bottle was asked to return the stamped, address card from inside it or contact Scripps to report the bottle was found. The program is being funded by the National Office of Sea Grant, the California Resources Agency and the Dept. of Fish and Game.

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SAN CLEMENTE

(Continued from Page 41)

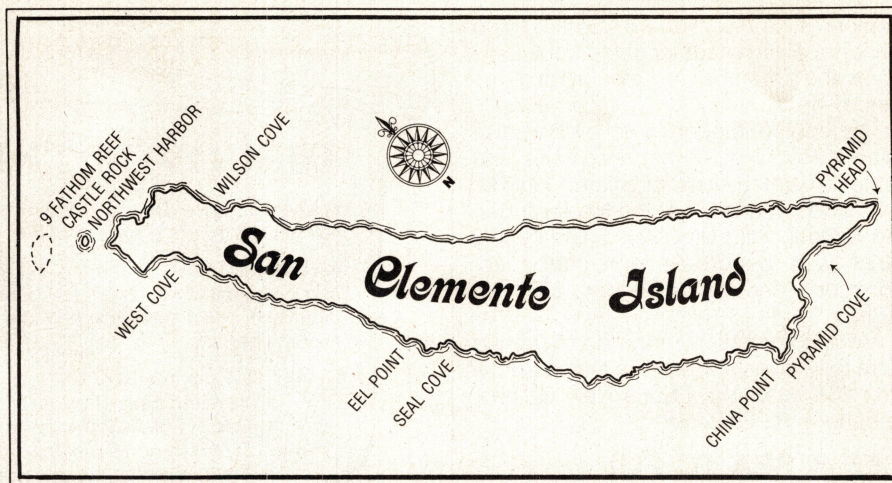
silhouetted against the rippling surface.

California sea lions are another experience a diver may encounter here. A meeting with one of these curious and playful creatures is truly unique and unforgettable.

LITTLE FLOWER

Along the lee side of the island, just up from Pyramid Head, is another favorite dive spot called Little Flower. The boat anchors close to the shoreline beneath the towering cliffs. Sometimes, wild sheep, descendants of domestic animals brought to the island years ago, can be seen making their way along the narrow trails which crisscross the ledges. Over the years, these sheep have caused severe habitat destruction and their elimination is underway.

Underwater, the seascape is different. Near shore the rocky bottom inclines at 45 degrees resulting in a series of slanting ledges. Further out, rock piles form interesting reefs. Underwater photography is exceptional here — nudibranchs, horn sharks and moray eels abound. The kelp beds are sparse in this area, but the ones that can be found offer the best diving. Most diving is in the 40 to 80 foot range. Deeper dives are not necessary.



Illustration/Tom Kelly

CHINA POINT

While at the southeastern end of the island a diver may wish to try China Point. At the western edge of Pyramid Cove, it is a good place for game. This weathered side gets only limited dive activity and game fish, abs and lobster are plentiful. A large kelp bed marks the spot for the best diving just off the point itself. This side of the island appears different from the lee side. There is a gradual incline from the shoreline rather than the abrupt cliffs on the east. One is struck by the idea that perhaps the entire island is a giant block of rock that has tilted toward the west and may slide into the sea.

Underwater, the bottom is mostly

rocky with a few high reefs here and there. The kelp forest is thick and one can glide through it like a water bird on the wing.

NORTHWESTERN HARBOR

For wreck diving enthusiasts, Northwest Harbor offers one of the best and most photogenic relics to be found in the Channel Islands area. About 600 yards offshore, next to the tender buoy in about 100 feet of water, lies the stern section of the *John C. Butler*, a destroyer escort ship sunk in 1970 for target practice by the U.S. Navy. It was blown in half during the mock attacks and the bow section is thought to be in deeper water.

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I want to find money underwater: here's \$2.00 for your information packet.

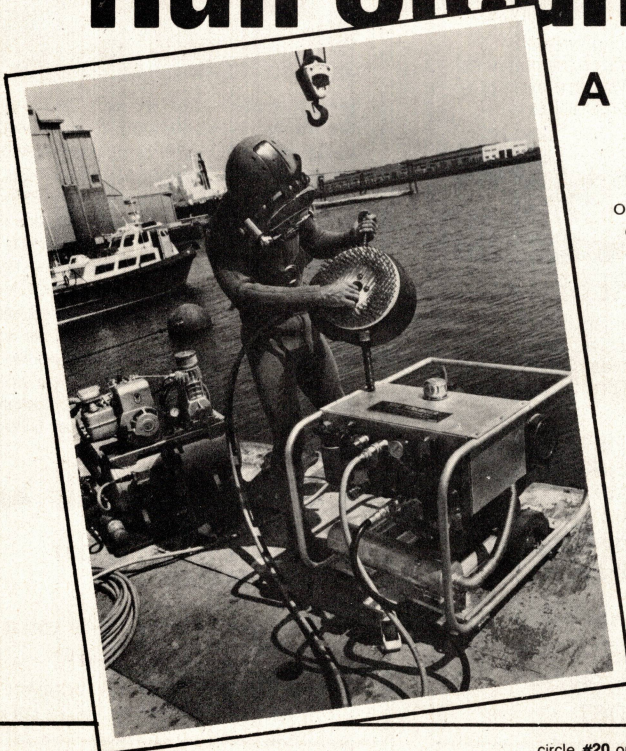
Name _____

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circle #20 on Reader Service Card

Approaching this wreck from above, the first thing one notices is the depth charge racks on the stern deck. Visions of old war movies with destroyers firing depth charges to strike German U-boats crosses one's mind. Once on the wreck itself, other things come into view. There are a few cabins to explore and a swim to the underside reveals a huge propeller, half covered with sand.

NINE FATHOM REEF

Located about one mile off the Northwest end is Nine Fathom Reef. Rocky outcroppings and a thick kelp bed make for an excellent dive. Calico bass and sheephead glide among the kelp blades and purple hydrocoral (*Allopora californica*) protrudes from rocky crevices carpeted with strawberry anemones. The macro-photographer can easily find ample subjects. The bottom varies from 60 to 80 feet deep and is fairly level.

San Clemente's underwater scenery draws raves from photographers who rank her as one of the most photogenic of the Channel Islands. In recent years she has also become known as "the home of the shorts." Her waters are a virtual lobster nursery. Once these bugs reach legal size no one knows where they go, but the babies are abundant. Beware: Only the babies are brave. They know they are undersized — and Fish and Game will know, too! 🐟

FOTO FLUNKY

(Continued from Page 46)

your importance will be more than doubled. If you can hold one, or even both of the strobes, the photographer can concentrate more on composition. We find this especially true if the photographer is using a housed SLR camera and has his/her eye glued to the viewfinder. When changing close-up distances, the photographer may aim the strobe(s) inaccurately. But you, watching the relative positions of camera, subject and strobe(s), can often aim them correctly. When we take close-ups with either a Nikonos or housed camera, one of us invariably holds one of the strobes for the other. We usually get our best pictures when we work together.

CONCLUSIONS

To change your status from U/W photo widow, or widower, to U/W photo buddy, start small. Try to learn one step at a time. You might begin by helping with only a few shots per roll, when the photographer has a specific subject or purpose in mind. You must also learn to recognize when your help is needed, and when it is not. Otherwise, you run the risk of being the scapegoat if anything goes wrong.

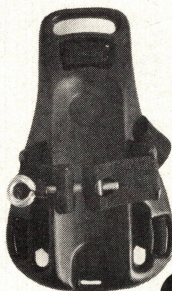
You will make some mistakes while learning, and your success as a team depends largely on your tolerances for each other's learning processes. But once you can work as a team, your pictures will show marked improvement 🐟

New England Divers Sept. Super Savers!



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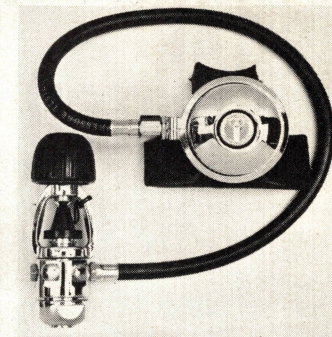
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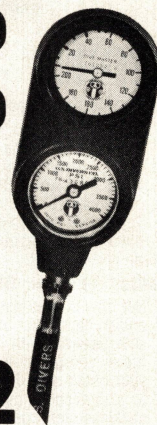
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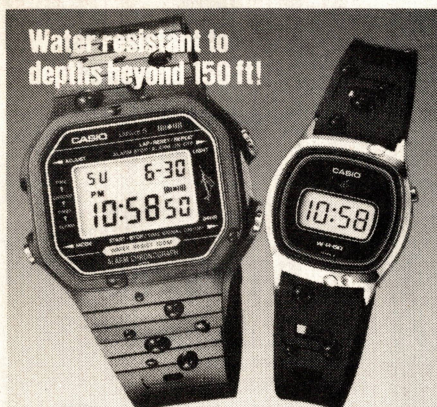
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Not only do you get the time in crisp, clear liquid crystal digits, but the ladies' Mariner also includes an auto-calendar with month and date. And for \$10.00 more, you get all that plus a 24 hour daily alarm for your hectic schedule. Both have super quartz accuracy to ± 15 seconds per month, 15 month battery life, and stainless steel case with resin band.

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TITANIC

Jack Grimm is a Texas oil millionaire who has gambled \$2.5 million that he can locate the sunken *Titanic*. He and a team of photographers and scientists left this summer on the second leg of an expedition to the North Atlantic designed to bring back the first photos of the wreck for a documentary film, and eventually, the ship's treasure.

The search began last summer using wide scan sonar developed specially for the expedition. This equipment, which scans a swath 15,000 feet wide, has since been donated to Columbia University (in exchange for research help).

If the *Titanic* is found, the crew will head home. They plan to return next summer with a submersible strong enough to withstand a descent to 15,000 feet — the *Titanic* is believed to be 12,000 feet down. Grimm hopes to cut through the *Titanic*'s hull, providing entrance to the purser's office, where valuables were kept.

PADI MASTER INSTRUCTOR COURSE

PADI open water instructors and underwater instructors may now complete all academic and specialty requirements for PADI master instructor certification through PADI International College's Master Instructor Course.

This course provides instructor certification in six separate specialties: underwater photography, equipment repair, search and recovery, rescue diving, research diving and deep diving. Instructors also earn their PADI retail dive store operations certification, thereby making them eligible for full placement benefits now offered only to the ten week Gold Instructor graduates.

The course is five weeks long and will convene regularly five times a year. The starting dates for 1981 are August 31 and November 9. Instructors interested in this new course should write or call PADI Int'l College, 1310 Rosecrans, San Diego, CA 92106; (714) 223-9821.

HYPERBARIC CHAMBER WORKSHOP

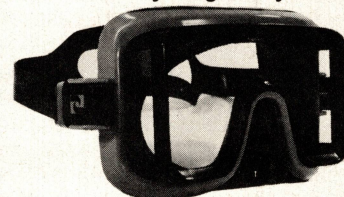
Dive-Med International is holding a hyperbaric chamber workshop — in Freeport, Bahamas November 29-December 4, at the International Underwater Explorers Society (UNEXSO). Medical problems of offshore saturation diving and practical exercises in the diagnosis and treatment of decompression sickness are an essential part of the course.

For further information contact: Dive-Med International, The Gruehn Building, 3001 South Hanover Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21225; (301) 355-1903.

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This is your 365 day a year total discount scuba store. Shown are just four items from our 1981 catalog. They are not on sale. These are our normal, everyday, what-you-see-is-what-you-get prices. Send for our catalog and see for yourself.

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
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DIVING PIONEER

Dr. Edgar M. End, a pioneer in deep diving experimentation, died of a heart attack on May 23 at his home in suburban Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dr. End and the late Max Nohl made history in 1938 with a 72 hour pressure tank experiment which proved man could safely endure high air pressure for extended periods. Dr. End pioneered the treatment of stroke and senility with high pressure air. End was a graduate of the old Marquette University Medical School (now the Medical College of Wisconsin) and was an assistant clinical professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the Medical College until his death. 

DIVING INTO TV

Underwater model/actress, Melanie Vincz, recently became a regular on ABC TV's General Hospital. Cast in the role of Corrine, a new character in the series,




Melanie will appear on several episodes a week. Melanie, a PADI advanced open water diver, has been featured in catalogs for U.S. Divers, U.S. Cavalero and White Stag; underwater posters for PADI and U.S. Cavalero; and in Jack McKenney's film, *The Joy of Diving*. 

PADI BUSINESS SEMINAR SERIES

For the fifth consecutive year, PADI is conducting dive business seminars across the United States. Past topics have included advertising, financial planning, and sales management. The theme of this year's seminar series is Progressive Instruction Management: Profits Through Teaching.

PADI dive business seminars, the most widely attended in the dive industry, will be held in eleven cities in 1981: Sept. 22 — San Francisco, CA; Sept. 24 — Seattle, WA; Oct. 8 — Honolulu, HI; Oct. 22 — Charlotte, NC; Oct. 27 — Orlando, FL; Nov. 16 — Boston, MA; Nov. 18 — New York City, NY; Nov. 20 — Cherry Hill, NJ; Dec. 1 — Chicago, IL; Dec. 3 — St. Louis, MO; Dec. 9 — Los Angeles, CA.

Early registration is advisable as enrollment is limited. For additional information, contact: Business Seminars, PADI Headquarters, 2064 North Bush, Santa Ana, CA 92706; (714) 953-7555. 

GLENN BEALL EXCLUSIVES

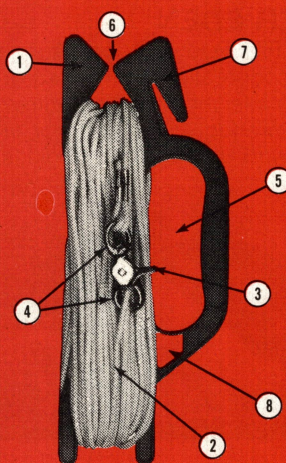
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Reel only without line #15HC2 \$4.95. Plus \$1.00 ship & handl

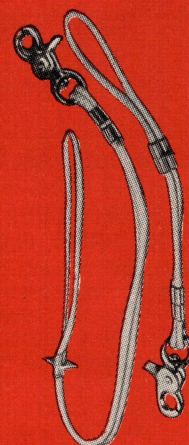
Complete Reel, 50-ft. of Line & Snap #15HC2-50 Nickel Snap \$12.65 #15HC2-50B Bronze Snap \$13.60 Plus \$1.50 ship & handl

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Underwater life support systems are potentially dangerous to a non-trained user. These include regulators, tanks, and buoyancy compensators. This ad does not constitute an offer to sell these items via mail order.

GILLMEN UNDERWATER FILM FESTIVAL

The Gillmen Club of the Greater Hartford YMCA will hold their second annual underwater film festival Saturday night, October 24, at 8:00 pm. The program will take place in the East Catholic High School auditorium in Manchester, CT. Stan Waterman will be the featured speaker and the program will include some of his best films.

The winners of the Annual Connecticut Council of Diving Clubs (CCDC) Underwater Photography Contest will also be announced that evening. Tickets are \$4 and will be available at the door, at your Connecticut Dive Shops or by writing to Bob Bockholdt, c/o Innerspace Diving Supply, 598 Center St., Manchester, CT 06040; (203) 646-2352.

OTHER EDEN

Mako Films Ltd. and John Stoneman, in close cooperation with George and Luana Marler of Aquatic Centres, have started production on a major environmental work in the British Virgin Islands.



photo/Barry Parker

Some spectacular footage has already been obtained, including a sequence showing Lu Marler with a sleeping baby humpback whale.

This film, entitled *The Other Eden*, follows closely on the heels of the now very successful one hour documentary, a gold medal winner at the Festival of the Americas, entitled *Shark!*

Inquiries regarding these films should be addressed to: Mako Films Ltd., 25 St. Mary Street, Suite 101, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 1R3; or telephone (416) 960-3228.

LIVING OCEAN FILMS

The Living Ocean Society announces the continuation of production on two films about the marine environment — *A Year with the Dolphins* and *The Sea of Cortez*.

A Year with the Dolphins is the continuation of the award winning film *Dolphin* but emphasizes a scientific approach. Joining the Living Ocean Society in the study is Hubbs Sea World Research Institute.

The Sea of Cortez is a whole-systems study of that phenomenal body of water, showing the interrelationship of life there.

47th STREET UNDERWATER PHOTO COMBINATIONS

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photo/Howard Hall

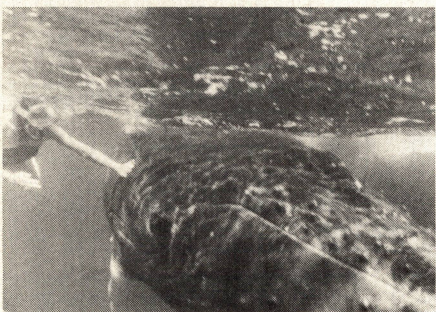
Howard Hall is director of underwater photography for both films.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Living Ocean Society's research and efforts to preserve the whales and dolphins can write P.O. Box 855, Sausalito, CA 94966. >

NEW STONEMAN FILM

Stephen M. Zacks Productions, a documentary company based in Toronto, has completed work on a film about the work of award winning Canadian director and underwater cinematographer, John Stoneman.

Stoneman, a dedicated marine conservationist, is shown at work beneath the sea with whales, sharks, manatees,



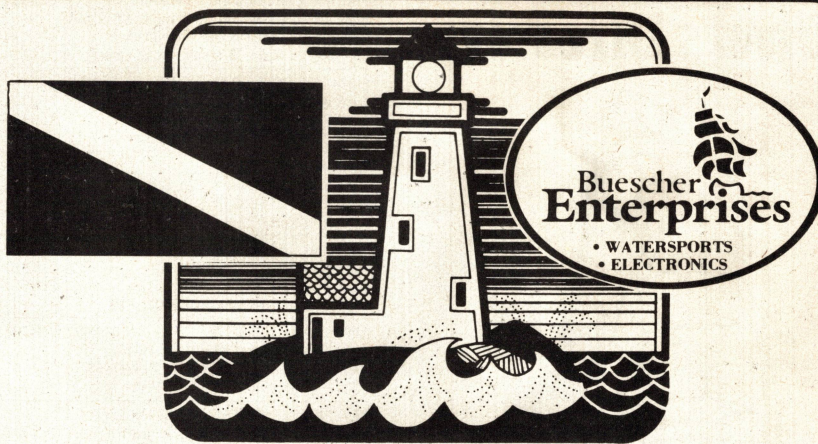
sea turtles and many other marine animals. His concerns for the ocean world are told in a sensitive and truthful approach.

Due to be aired on Canadian network television this summer, the 25 minute film is also available for rental or purchase from Stephen M. Zacks Productions, 25 St. Mary Street, Suite 101, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 1R3; telephone (416) 960-3228. >

PADI ICE DIVING WORKSHOPS

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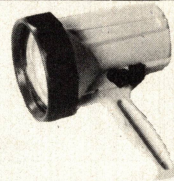
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A ☐ Yes B ☐ No
3. What type of film do you use for underwater photography?
1 ☐ Slide 2 ☐ Print 3 ☐ Both
4. Do you own a slide projector?
A ☐ Yes B ☐ No
5. Do you own any of this underwater photography equipment?
1 ☐ A 35mm underwater camera
2 ☐ 35mm underwater housing
3 ☐ Instamatic camera housing
4 ☐ Underwater movie camera equipment
6. Which of these do you intend to purchase in the next 12 months?
A ☐ A 35mm underwater camera
B ☐ 35 mm underwater housing
C ☐ Instamatic camera housing
D ☐ Underwater movie camera equipment
7. What brand of film do you use most often?
1 ☐ Agfa-Gevaert
2 ☐ Fuji 3 ☐ Kodak
8. On dive trips taken in the past year, how many rolls of film were shot *underwater*?
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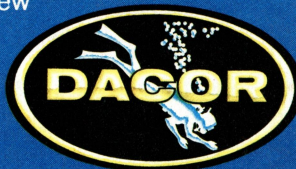
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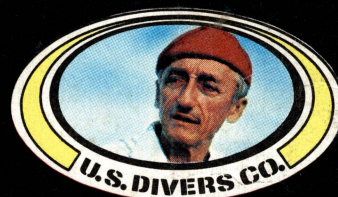


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